



15 December 2021



Ref: OIA-2021/22-0531

Dear

**Official Information Act request relating to daily situation reports since 4 September**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 1 November 2021. You requested:

*"I would like to request copies of all COVID-19 Across Government Daily Situation Reports, dated since 4 September."*

**Information being released**

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed below, subject to information being withheld as noted.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) to protect personal privacy. Further information is withheld under section 6(c) as the release of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial. Some other information has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) as the release of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject or the information.

Item	Date	Document Description/Subject
1.	06 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
2.	08 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
3.	10 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
4.	13 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
5.	15 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
6.	17 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
7.	21 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
8.	24 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
9.	28 September 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
10.	01 October 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
11.	06 October 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
12.	12 October 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
13.	19 October 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report
14.	26 October 2021	COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

Further information about the Government's response to COVID-19 is also publicly available on the Unite against COVID-19 website, at [www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/proactive-releases/](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/proactive-releases/).

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Cheryl Barnes  
**Deputy Chief Executive, COVID-19 Response**

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### Health & Border

#### Community Cases

There are 704 active cases that have been identified in the community. Today, 20 new cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.  
Ministry of Health: 6 September 2021 1.27 PM

#### Contact Tracing

1,127 close plus contacts have been identified.

1,125 (99%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 339 have returned a positive result, while 572 have tested negative.

33,607 close contacts have been identified. 30,384 (90%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 141 have returned a positive result. 24,374 have returned a negative test result.

There are 3,324 casual plus contacts.  
Ministry of Health: 6 September 2021 1.27 PM

#### Vaccination

To date, there have been 2,564,936 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,325,242 people have been fully vaccinated.

There are 1,919,698 future bookings.  
Ministry of Health: 6 September 2021 10.10 AM  
Information as of 5 September 2021 11.59 PM

#### Testing

There were 4,750 tests yesterday, 9% of surge testing capacity. This is lower than the level of testing the day before. There are sufficient supplies for 262,137 tests on hand.

Ministry of Health: 6 September 2021 9.29 AM

#### PPE

The National PPE and Critical Medical Supply Chain has adequate PPE stocks, with at least a month's reserves to meet high pandemic demand.

Ministry of Health: 6 September 2021 11.24 AM

### Health & Border

#### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity at each DHB except Wairarapa and the West Coast which have no ICU beds available. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is over 25 ICU beds and over 60 ventilators.

Capacity at Capital and Coast DHB has over 10 ICU beds and over 35 ventilators available.  
Ministry of Health: 6 September 1.27 PM

#### COVID APP Usage

The NZ COVID Tracer app has 3,152,716 registered users. 10,196 people registered today. There have been 676,581 scans today.

Ministry of Health: 6 September 2021 2.45 PM

#### Healthline

Healthline had 3,747 contacts yesterday. 1,776 were to the COVID-19 Info Line. 59% of enquiries were seeking information and 25% of those calling were sent for testing.

Ministry of Health: 6 September 2021 1.27 PM

#### Air Border

There are 242 passengers anticipated, and 15 flights (red zone, and freight).

NZ Customs Service: 6 September 2021 2.28 PM

#### Maritime Border

There are 25 merchant vessels in ports. 7 vessels are scheduled to arrive today with an estimated 119 crew.

NZ Customs Service: 6 September 2021 2.28 PM

#### MIQ Capacity

There are 3,795 people in managed isolation (84% of MIQ operational capacity, which is 57 less people than yesterday).

There are 757, people in quarantine facilities, which is 11 more than yesterday. (66% of capacity).

MBIE: 6 September 2021 1.48 PM

### Health & Border

#### Health System

There are 40 hospitalised cases, all of which are associated with the current outbreak. 6 cases are in ICU and 4 of those require ventilation. There was one death from COVID-19 on 3 September.

Ministry of Health: 6 September 2021 1.27 PM.

### Compliance

#### Non-Compliance

5 people were prosecuted for COVID-19 related offences, 2 fewer than the previous day. 13 people were warned yesterday, 5 more than the previous day. There were 189 infringements issued yesterday for COVID-19 related breaches, 67 more than the previous day. The increase was driven by non-essential travel occurring in AL4 areas.

From midnight on 7 September, everyone age 12 and over will be required to sign into most locations they attend. Mandatory record-keeping is part of an effort to strengthen contact tracing. Media reporting has already highlighted concerns around how this data will be used and/or stored.

New Zealand Police: 6 September 2021 7.23 AM.  
Information as of 5 September 5.00 PM.

#### Online Breach Notifications

There were 611 compliance breaches reported to Police online yesterday. This is an increase of 85 breach notifications compared to the previous day.

Of the breaches, 79% (480) related to gatherings, 15% (92) related to businesses, and 6% (39) related to individuals.

New Zealand Police: 6 September 2021 7.23 AM.  
Information as of 5 September 5.00 PM.

### Compliance

#### Travel Compliance

Approximately 21,474 vehicles were recorded going through checkpoints in the 24 hours to 1530hrs 5 September 2021. 835 vehicles (3.8%) were turned around for not having an exemption/permitted travel.

New Zealand Police: 6 September 2021 4.30 PM

#### Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media commentary indicates that people are divided following MIQ system changes: some are happy, others discouraged by a lack of booking prioritisation.

Thursday's MIQ incidents are driving discussion about the training MIQ staff receive and whether purpose-built managed isolation facilities are required.

People are also discussing the impacts of lockdown on small/independent business and on industries with scarcity of materials/labour. People are concerned about pressures on essential workers. Overall, 54% of COVID-related online sentiment is negative, and 34% is neutral.

DPMC: 6 September 10.09AM

#### Section

6(c)

#### Section 6(c)

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### AOG Coordination

#### Communications

The focus for communications includes preparing Alert Level 2 messaging, planning communications regarding Alert Level boundaries, addressing disinformation, and clarification of rules for students on premises at Alert Level 3. There is also a focus on media queries concerning rules governing flights out of Auckland, and what counts as 'local' for exercise purposes.

DPMC: 6 September 2021 12.22PM

#### Policy

DPMC are preparing to work through any issues arising from today's Cabinet decision on Alert Levels. This includes any issues arising from the Order and responding to questions and requests for clarification from across government.

DPMC: 6 September 2021 2.19PM

### Regional Coordination

#### Fire and Emergency Resourcing

83 Fire and Emergency personnel are isolating after visiting locations of interest. This is the same number as yesterday. Personnel availability remains adequate nationwide.

Fire and Emergency NZ: 6 September 2021 2.00 PM

#### Corrections Resourcing

77 Corrections staff are awaiting test results. 169 staff are self isolating

Department of Corrections: 6 September 2021 3.00 PM

#### Police Resourcing

There are approximately 200 Police assigned to Auckland boundary checkpoints. Additional Police resources may be required.

New Zealand Police: 4 September 2021 3.22 PM

### Social & Community

#### Mental Health

On Saturday there were 654 contacts to "1737 Need to talk?". This is 37 more than the previous day.

Ministry of Health, 5 September 2021 1.05 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Traffic

Traffic in all major cities except Auckland has increased compared to last week: by 110% to 140% for light traffic, and 20% to 110% for heavy traffic. Auckland has had a 12% increase in light traffic and a 4% drop in heavy traffic compared to last week.

Ministry of Transport, 6 September 2021 10.02 AM

#### Travel Exemption Requests

As of 2.30pm today, MPI has received 398 exemption requests.

Ministry of Primary Industries: 6 September 2021 4.02 PM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Infrastructure Resourcing

Watercare have 37 staff self-isolating (14 fewer than Friday) and Citycare have 2 staff self-isolating (no change from Friday).

MBIE: 6 September 2021 2.20 PM

#### Supermarket Resourcing

Foodstuffs North Island has 47 staff self-isolating (34 fewer than Friday).

As of Friday, Countdown has 2,100 staff not currently working due to COVID-19 risks, including 1,100 staff self-isolating. More recent data is not available.

3 Countdown stores are closed.

No Foodstuffs stores are closed.

MBIE: 6 September 2021 2.20 PM

#### Digital Infrastructure

No critical digital infrastructure issues have been reported.

An internet disruption was notified on Friday 3 September. Services to affected agencies and Vocus customers were restored that afternoon. The disruption appeared to be linked to a cyberattack on a Vocus customer; Vocus is still working to understand the cause.

Department for Internal Affairs, 6 September 2.24PM

#### Telecommunications, Energy, Water, Waste

No issues reported.

MBIE, 6 September 2021 2.20 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Health & Border

#### Healthline and Testing Hesitancy

Themes have emerged over the past 3-4 days of higher testing hesitancy amongst callers to Healthline. Reasons for the increase in hesitancy are concerns around having to go into MIQ, positive case shaming, and essential worker wage pressure, despite the "COVID-19 Short-Term Absence" payment available. Concerns around entering MIQ have been exacerbated by negative news and social media reports.

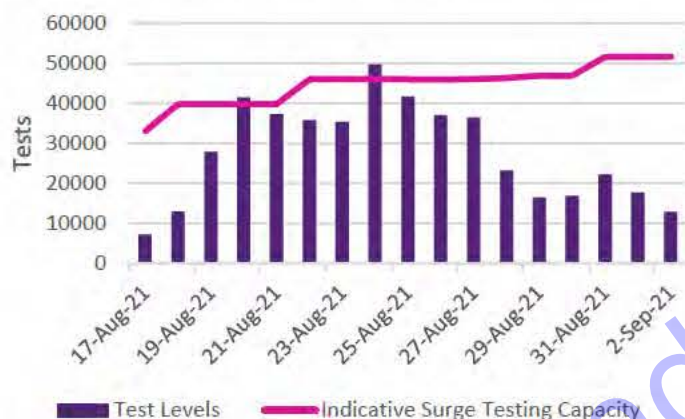
Ministry of Health: 5 September 2021 1.05 PM

#### Testing Levels Declining

Testing levels have been declining since 24 August (see chart).

Ministry of Health: 3 September 2021

#### Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



#### PPE – Adequate Stocks, Reduced Demand

PPE demand has fallen by a third over the last week when compared to the first week of the response. Stocks remain adequate, with at least a month's reserves available.

Ministry of Health: 5 September 2021 1.05 PM

#### Calls to Healthline Decreasing

Calls to Healthline about COVID-19 have been gradually declining since 24 August and are now at a lower level daily than at the beginning of the response.

Ministry of Health, 6 September 2021 1.27 PM

#### COVID-19 Calls to Healthline



#### AL3 Guidance for Workplaces

Business.govt AL3 workplace guidance has been updated to align with the new Health Order, including workplace operations at COVID-19 Alert Levels and Exemption Applications for North and South Borders.

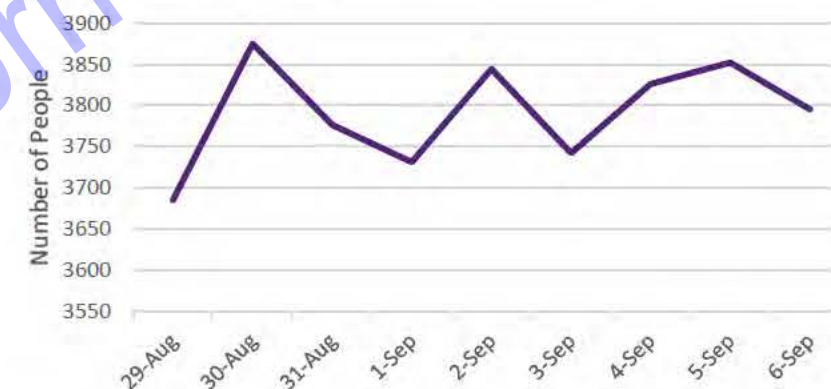
MBIE: 5 September 2021 12.55 PM

#### Managed Isolation Facilities Nearing Capacity

Managed isolation facilities are at 84% of capacity (3,795 people). The number isolating has been increasing since 3 September.

MBIE: 6 September 2021 1.48 PM

#### Number of People currently in Managed Isolation Facilities



#### MIQ Security and Staffing Measures

The number of First Security and NZDF staff has been increased at the Novotel Ibis Eilerslie and Holiday Inn in response to a review of security, health, and hotel workforce measures at those sites. MIQ staff continue to review whether changes to health workforce staffing levels or operating procedures could further improve conditions and mitigate escape risk. MIQ staff have been warned of risks of poor behaviour among recent arrivals following a report from Air New Zealand of poor behaviour on yesterday's emergency allocation flight from Australia.

MBIE: 5 September 2021 12.55 PM

#### MIQ Staff Wellbeing

Behavioural issues from community cases housed in MIQ continue to place strain on staff. MIQ leadership are providing regular communications to staff and advertising channels staff can go to for help. Wellbeing is expected to improve as community cases and MIQ occupancy decrease.

MBIE: 5 September 2021 12.55 PM

## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

#### Social Support in Northland

Northland Indian Business Association and Whangarei District Council have raised concerns regarding the accessibility of MSD support services among elderly, disabled, and migrant populations. This could be due to social stigma and confidentiality issues around providing personal information to Government.

Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion, and Ethnic Communities: 3 September 2021 5.20 PM

#### Food Access for Migrant Groups

Requests for food parcels are increasing among migrant workers and international students.

Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion, and Ethnic Communities: 3 September 2021 5.20 PM

#### Elderly Support Needs

Age Concern Auckland has highlighted the need to deliver practical support in accessing online information, replenishing food supplies, and accessing prescription medication to elderly populations.

Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion, and Ethnic Communities: 3 September 2021 5.20 PM

#### Food Access

Foodbanks and community providers are receiving an unprecedented demand for food, with many organisations reporting a high risk of running out of food.

Increasing numbers of Pacific families are continuing to go without essentials, with reports suggesting families are not comfortable requesting support.

Auckland Regional Church leaders are collaborating with service providers and agencies to facilitate the push of aid packages to families in need.

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples is connecting church and community leaders to service providers to deliver these services safely.

Ministry of Social Development, 6 September 4.23 PM

#### Welfare Triage Centre

Auckland Emergency Management, and MSD have established a Welfare Triage Centre, with 36 staff providing outbound calling to people testing positive and/or self-isolating to match them with appropriate agencies.

National Emergency Management Agency: 5 September 2021 2.50 PM

#### Housing

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development have secured approximately 60 additional motel units, in Auckland, Whangārei, Wellington, Nelson and Christchurch in response to requests from Housing First providers for additional capacity to enable people experiencing homelessness/rough sleepers to be housed.

The Ministry is working with a range of community and government agencies in regional locations to address location-specific needs, for example women seeking refuge and support services for rangatahi.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, 6 September 2021 1.34 PM

#### Ethnically-Centred Vaccination Sites

On September 3, Asian Family Services requested a group vaccination site for ethnic communities. This is being progressed by Auckland DHB.

Ministry of Diversity, Inclusion, and Ethnic Communities: 3 September 2021 5.20 PM

As a percentage of the population fully vaccinated by ethnicity, 35% of the Asian population are fully vaccinated, 33% of the European/Other population, 28% of the Pacific population, and 21% of the Māori population.

Ministry of Health, 6 September 2021 10.13 AM

#### Vaccination Outreach

The process to implement further mobile vaccinations is underway. Auckland DHB has been working with Housing First providers to schedule outreach vaccinations for high density motels starting on 6 September, commencing initially with three of the larger Kāhui Tū Kaha residences.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, 6 September 2021 1.34 PM

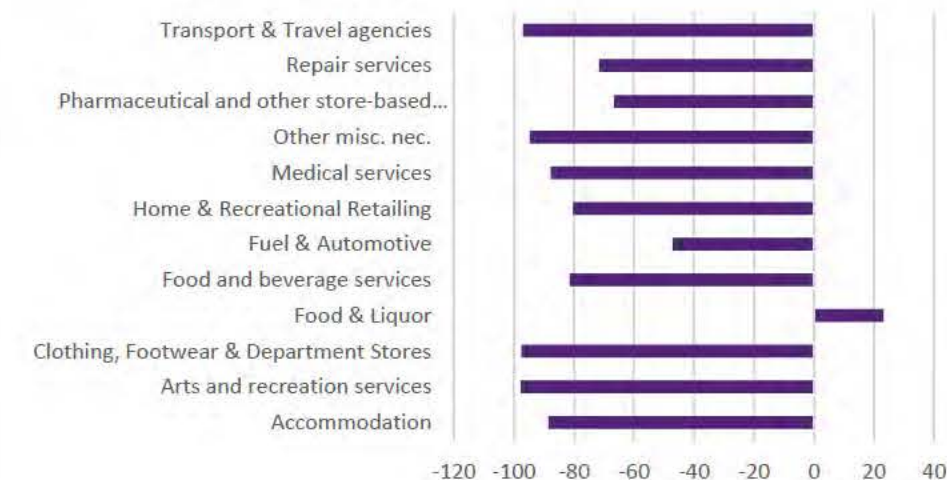
#### Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

As an indicator of spending, consumer spend by BNZ card holders was down 38.2% in the week ending 5 September compared to the same week in 2019. Spending by BNZ card holders in most major categories fell except for food and liquor where spending grew 23.2%

Between 20 August and 27 August \$811.6 million in wage subsidies were paid, supporting 723,417 jobs.

MBIE: 6 September 2021 3.55 PM, Ministry for Social Development: 6 September 2021, 4.32 PM

Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019 (BNZ card holders)



#### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

Between 20 August and 27 August \$811.6 million in wage subsidies were paid, supporting 723,417 jobs.

MBIE: 6 September 2021 3.55 PM, Ministry for Social Development: 6 September 2021, 4.32 PM



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Compliance

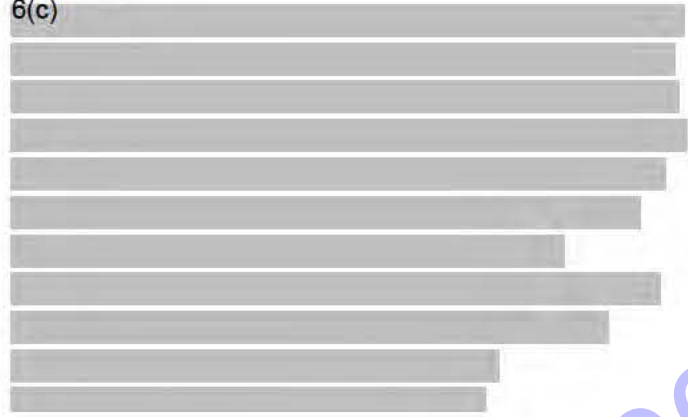
There are several protest, false-information, and non-compliance activities occurring during the current response. Some of the most high-profile ones are highlighted below.

### False Information

Misinformation continues. This includes the suggestion that Ivermectin (typically used as a horse de-wormer) can be ingested orally as a Covid cure. Misinformation is likely to hinder the COVID-19 response. There may also be health issues arising from people using Ivermectin.

New Zealand Police 4 September 3.22PM

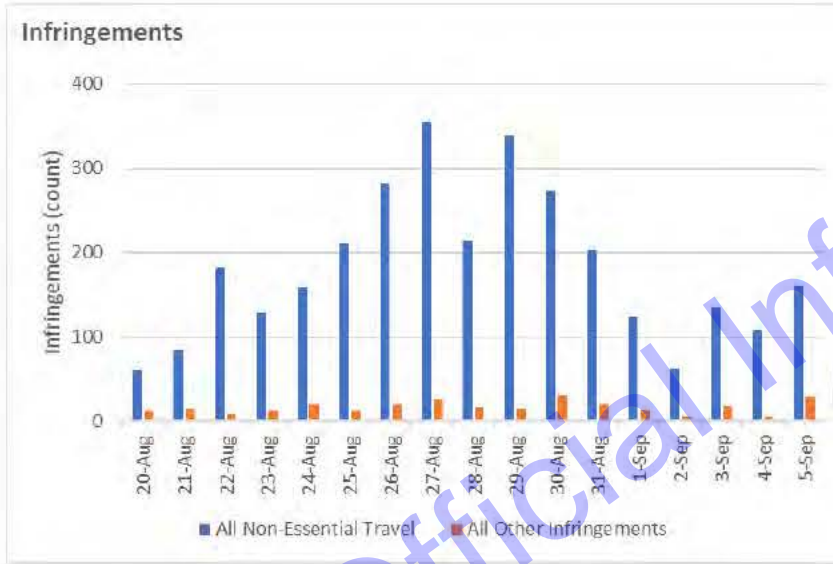
Section 6(c)



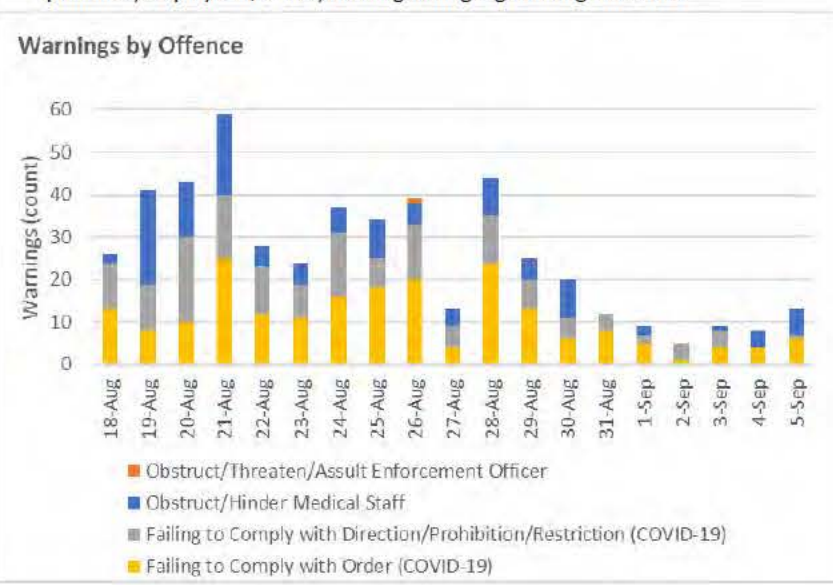
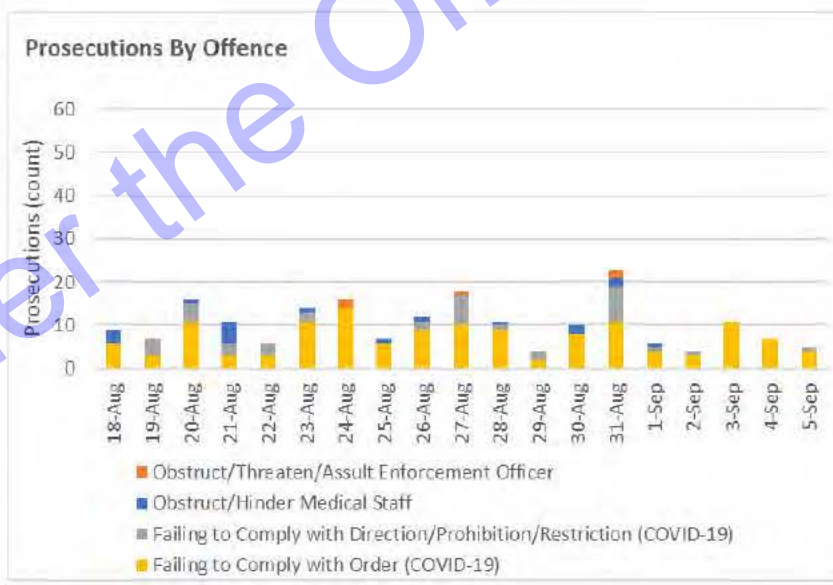
### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings

Since the change to Alert Level 3 in areas south of Auckland, infringements, prosecutions, and warnings related to COVID-19 have decreased. Decreases in infringements appear to be driven by decreases outside Auckland. In Auckland, there does not appear to be any change to infringement rates, and infringements remain particularly high in the Counties/Manukau policing district. There does not appear to be any regional trend in prosecutions or warnings.

New Zealand Police: 6 September 2021 7.23 AM. Information as of 5 September 5.00 PM.



Note: Other infringements include failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.



## COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="mailto:alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz">alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz</a>

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)



## Daily Updates

### Health & Border

#### Community Cases

There are 856 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 15 new cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.  
Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 1.00 PM

#### Contact Tracing

1,143 close plus contacts have been identified.

1,117 (97%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 361 have returned a positive test result, while 583 have tested negative.

33,549 close contacts have been identified. 30,428 (90%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 135 have returned a positive test result, while 24,346 have tested negative.

There are 3,326 casual plus contacts.  
Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 1.00 PM

#### Vaccination

To date, there have been 2,662,131 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,370,579 people have been fully vaccinated.

There are 1,871,934 future bookings.  
Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 10.43 AM  
Information as of 7 September 2021 11.59 PM

#### Testing

There were 13,230 tests yesterday, 25% of surge testing capacity. This is significantly higher than the level of testing the day before, (an increase of almost 6,000 tests). There are sufficient supplies for 258,844 tests on hand.

Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 9.13 AM

#### PPE

Current usage rate remains within low pandemic usage. There is currently 8 weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use.

Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 4 26 PM

### Health & Border

#### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is over 20 ICU beds and over 60 ventilators.

Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and over 30 ventilators available.  
Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 1.00 PM

#### COVID APP Usage

The NZ COVID Tracer app has 3,174,325 registered users. 5,419 people registered today. There have been 1,433,928 scans today.

Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 1.45 PM

#### Healthline

Healthline had 5,130 contacts yesterday, an increase of 592 since Monday. Calls to the COVID-19 Info Line also rose from 3,260 to 3,561 over the same period, likely as a result of recent alert level changes.

Ministry of Health, 8 September 2021 1.52 PM

#### Maritime Border

There are 24 merchant vessels in ports. 4 vessels are scheduled to arrive today with an estimated 85 crew.

NZ Customs Service: 8 September 2021 2.25 PM

#### MIQ Capacity

There are 3,859 people in managed isolation (86% of operational capacity, and four more than yesterday). There are 736 people in quarantine facilities, which is 32 less than yesterday. (68% of capacity).

MBIE: 8 September 2021 1.17 PM

#### Quarantine-Free Travel to Australia

Australia has further extended its pause on QFT from all of New Zealand until 11:59pm (AEST) on 14 September.

Ministry of Transport: 8 September 2021 3.22 PM

### Health & Border

#### Health System

There are 37 hospitalised cases, all of which are associated with the current outbreak. 6 cases are in ICU and 4 of those require ventilation.

Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 1.56 PM.

#### Transboundary Travel for Vaccination

Some callers to Healthline have raised concerns regarding crossing the AL4 boundary to access pre-booked vaccination appointments in Auckland. Although permitted under the Health Order, they have been turned away at the boundary.

Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 1.56 PM.

### Compliance

#### Non-Compliance

3 people were prosecuted for COVID-19 related offences, 10 fewer than the previous day. 14 people were warned yesterday, 1 fewer than the previous day. There were 161 infringements issued yesterday for COVID-19 related breaches, 18 fewer than the previous day.

New Zealand Police: 8 September 2021 6 28 AM.  
Information as of 7 September 5.00 PM

#### Online Breach Notifications

There were 274 compliance breaches reported to Police online yesterday. This is a decrease of 174 breach notifications compared to the previous day. Of the breaches, 52% (143) related to gatherings, 36% (99) related to businesses, and 121% (33) related to individuals. The rate of reports is falling steadily and is now less than half the peak rate of two weeks ago.

New Zealand Police: 6 September 2021 7 23 AM.  
Information as of 5 September 5.00 PM.

#### Protests

Activists continue to serve civil servants with cease and desist notices as a method of harassment.

Department of Corrections: 8 September 2021 2 36 PM

### Compliance

#### Travel Compliance

Approximately 14,459 vehicles were recorded going through checkpoints in the 24 hours to 11:59 PM, 7 September 2021. 92 vehicles (0.6%) were turned around for not having an exemption/permitted travel.  
New Zealand Police: 8 September 2021 2.16 PM

#### Public Sentiment

Conversation around AL4 timeframes, contact tracing and testing, and the vaccine rollout peaked on Monday following the post-Cabinet briefing, following high levels of conversation about the vaccine rollout over the weekend.

Sentiment about the vaccine rollout is 50% negative and 37% neutral. Conversation on the vaccine rollout was driven by news articles regarding border workers challenging the government's mandate to be vaccinated and a Picton backpacking accommodation's decision that all guests must be vaccinated. Discussion included the topics of freedom of choice, human rights and herd immunity.

DPMC: 6 September 2021 4 39PM and 7 September 5.40 PM

#### AL2 Gatherings

AL2 allows indoor gatherings of up to 50 people. Police anticipate possible breaches at places of worship this weekend and are engaging community leaders on social distancing practices.

New Zealand Police: 8 September 2021 3.00 PM

#### Attempted Checkpoint Crossings

There has been an increase of people seeking to travel through checkpoints without the appropriate documentation, specifically to join sick relatives. All were referred to MOH to obtain the necessary exemptions.

New Zealand Police: 8 September 2021 3.00 PM

## Daily Updates

### AOG Coordination

#### Communications

The focus for communications includes Alert Level 2 messaging, communications regarding Alert Level boundaries, and addressing disinformation in the Pacific and Chinese communities. The recent COVID death and David Seymour's tweet has generated concern in Māori communities

DPMC: 8 September 2021 12.19 PM

#### Policy

DPMC is preparing Ministerial advice regarding boundaries and permissions with a core focus on AL2 and AL3, due to Ministers tomorrow. This will underpin the AL Review Cabinet Paper to be considered on September 13.

DPMC: 8 September 2021 1.26 PM

### Regional Coordination

#### Travel Exemption Requests

As of 4.30pm today, MPI has received 418 exemption requests. 134 have been approved, 122 declines while the remainder have either been withdrawn or require further information

Ministry of Primary Industries: 8 September 2021 4 51 PM

As of 19.47 07 September, the Ministry of Health received a total of 2,002 requests for a boundary exemption, 1637 of which have been completed, with 87 approved, 1,243 declined and 307 referred to MBIE. This means of the 1330 exemption requests considered within the Ministry of Health's mandate, 6.5% were approved. Please note that the online application system was taken down at 1900hrs yesterday to enable the system to be modified with regard to the new Alert Level 4/2 boundary permissions. The system came back online after 1200hrs today.

Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 4.51 PM

### Regional Coordination

#### Fire and Emergency Resourcing

73 Fire and Emergency personnel are isolating after visiting locations of interest, 2 fewer than yesterday. Personnel availability remains adequate nationwide.

Fire and Emergency NZ: 8 September 2021 2.00 PM

#### Corrections Resourcing

64 Corrections staff are awaiting test results. 119 staff are self-isolating

Department of Corrections: 8 September 2021 2 36 PM

#### Police Resourcing

Police report no concerns with current levels of resourcing at Auckland boundary checkpoints.

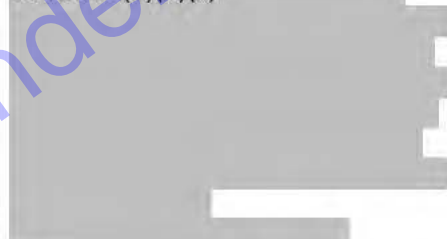
New Zealand Police: 8 September 2021 3 00 PM

#### Aviation Security

Discussions are taking place regarding L2 at airports; most prefer Avsec staff to maintain a presence. At this stage, there is capacity for staff to do so. It is expected that the main focus of the support will be on compliance with mask wearing and signing in.

Ministry of Transport: 7 September 3.12 PM

#### Section 9(2)(b)(ii)



### Social & Community

#### Mental Health

There were 675 contacts to "1737 Need to talk?" yesterday. This is 21 more than Monday.

Ministry of Health, 8 September 2021 1.52 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Traffic

Traffic in all major cities except Auckland increased between 75% and 180% after the change to AL3 but remains below baseline levels from the same time in 2019. In Auckland, traffic is around 31% of baseline levels but light and heavy vehicle traffic is increasing at a rate of 1-3% per day, indicating increasing amounts of movement as AL4 continues.

Ministry of Transport, 7 September 2021 9 59 AM

#### Transport

Bus usage increased 71% in Wellington and 79% in Christchurch relative to AL4. No issues were reported on the first day of the "no standing rule" on public transport and Waka Kotahi anticipates most services will not be affected under AL2. Updated transport operator guidance has been drafted reflecting AL changes.

Waka Kotahi and MoT are working with operators who have expressed concern about the capacity constraints this will create. The Transport COVID-19 Response Team remains active; Ministry and agencies meet daily. DPMC has approved draft guidance which MoT has shared with operators.

Ministry of Transport: 7 September 2021 3.12 PM and 8 September 2021 3.22 PM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Supermarket Resourcing

As of yesterday, Countdown has 800 staff not currently working as a result of COVID-19 risks. This is down from 2100 on September 2. Two Countdown stores remain closed, with eight fewer stores being identified as locations of interest than September 6 (decreasing from 27 to 19). Foodstuffs North Island has 36 staff self-isolating, one fewer than yesterday.

MBIE: 8 September 2021 3.00 PM

#### Infrastructure Resourcing

Watercare have 37 staff self-isolating and Citycare have two staff self-isolating (no change from Monday). There are 100 staff self-isolating across the fuel sector, while Vector and Genesis have five staff in self-isolation in the electricity and gas sectors respectively.

MBIE: 8 September 2021 3.00 PM

#### Vaccinating Essential Workers

Watercare reports that 69% of staff have received their first vaccine dose, with 34% fully vaccinated. By contrast, only 29% of Citycare workers have received at least one dose of the vaccine. MBIE and Auckland DHB are working to prioritise vaccinations for essential workers, but reasons for this discrepancy are unclear at this stage.

MBIE, 8 September 2021 3.00 PM

#### Digital Infrastructure

No critical digital infrastructure issues have been reported.

Department for Internal Affairs, 8 September 2.50 PM

#### Telecommunications, Energy, Water, Waste

No issues reported.

MBIE, 8 September 2021 3.00 PM

# The Bigger Picture

## Health & Border

### Healthline and Testing Hesitancy

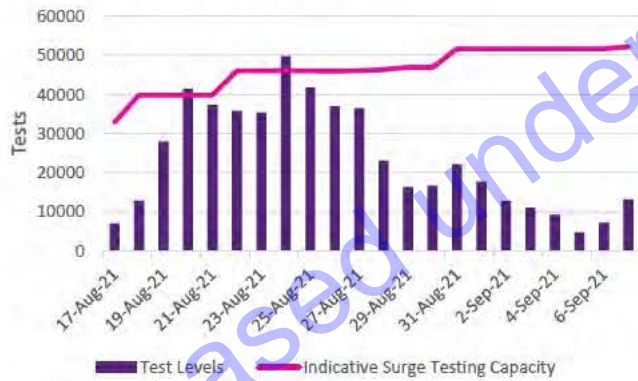
Higher testing hesitancy is being recorded among callers to Healthline. Reasons for this include concerns around having to go into MIQ, positive case shaming, and essential worker wage pressure, despite the "COVID-19 Short-Term Absence" payment available. Concerns around entering MIQ have been exacerbated by negative news and social media.  
 Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 1.52 PM

### Testing Levels – Recent Increase, Overall Decline

Testing rates increased to 13,230 yesterday from 4,750 the day before. This follows an overall trend of decline in testing levels since 24 August (see chart). These decreases are partly indicative of lower cases and reduction in circulation of respiratory infections in the community due to restricted movement, but may also be indicative of the testing hesitancy indicated above. However recent increases are likely to be sustained by the need to test boundary-crossing essential workers from September 10.

Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 (latest)

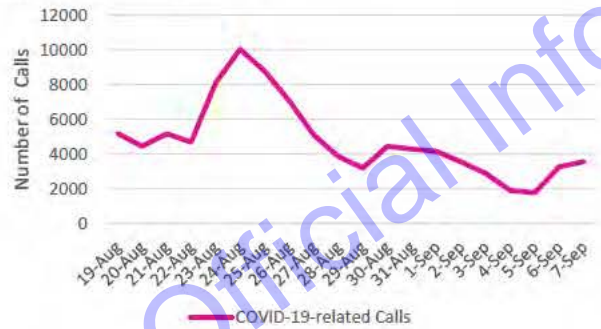
Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



### Calls to Healthline Decreasing

Daily call volumes to Healthline about COVID-19 have been gradually declining since 24 August and are now at a lower level daily than at the beginning of the response. As expected, however, the last two days have seen a slight increase due to the announcement of alert level changes.  
 Ministry of Health, 8 September 2021 1.52 PM

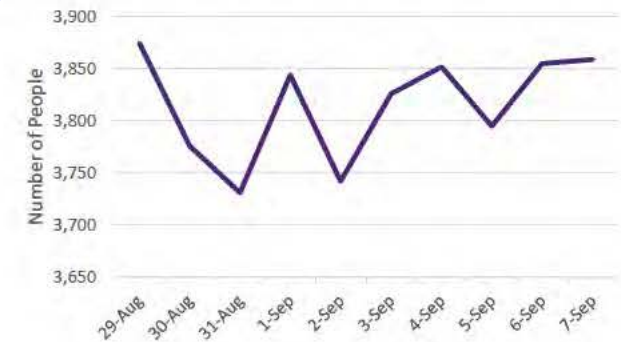
COVID-19 Calls to Healthline



### Managed Isolation Facilities Nearing Capacity

Managed isolation facilities are at 86% of capacity (3,852 people). After a brief fall on 5 September, the number of people isolating has increased in recent days. Regular monitoring is needed to ensure continued capacity of these facilities.  
 MBIE: 8 September 2021 1.17 PM

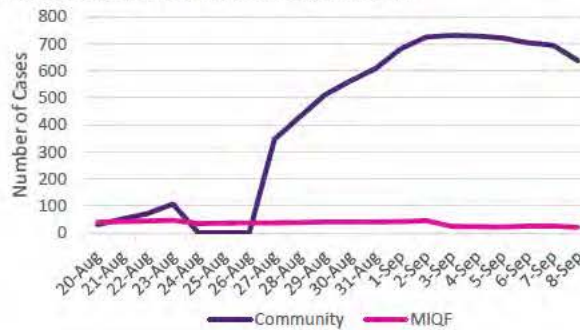
Number of People currently in Managed Isolation Facilities (Capacity: 4500)



### Active COVID-19 Cases Stabilising

Since September 2, the number of active cases of COVID-19 in both MIQF and the wider community has stabilised. As the infected population begins to recover, active cases in the community have decreased from 725 to 636 over the past week.  
 Ministry of Health, 8 September 2021 1.52 PM (latest)

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF





# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

8 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

#### Food Access

Access to food continues to be a big issue for communities with the number of food grants a third higher than pre-outbreak levels. Foodbanks, community, and iwi providers are receiving unprecedented demand for food. Some organisations are highlighting risks of running out of food in the coming days, and the difficulty in acquiring more supply. MSD has made a fund immediately available to partner with iwi responding to critical unmet needs. Ministry of Social Development, 8 September 11.20 AM

#### Food Access For Pacific Peoples

Pacific providers are reporting a five to seven day wait for families to receive food and support packages. The Ministry for Pacific Peoples is addressing this issue directly with MSD.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 7 September 2021 5.30 PM

#### Education

Educational facilities may open no earlier than Thursday morning. Schools are reporting challenges with student engagement with distance learning and deepening concerns about participation levels when they can return to onsite learning.

Caring for Communities, 8 September 11 20 AM

#### School Attendance Under AL3

As at 1 September, attendance at AL3 was 7.4% at early learning centres and 2.7% at schools (including primary and secondary). Attendance is in line with expected levels. No issues have been reported.

Ministry of Education: 8 September 2021 11.13 AM

#### Family Harm

Family Harm events in Auckland over the current lockdown period are trending lower in comparison to the same timeframe during the April 2020 AL4 lockdown. Counties Manukau District currently has the highest volume of reported family harm cases during this lockdown.

New Zealand Police: 8 September 2021 3 00 PM

#### Mental Health Needs Stablising

After peaking on August 30, calls to 1737 Need to Talk? have been steadily declining. If trends continue, these will return to levels observed at the beginning of the outbreak in the coming days.

Ministry of Health: 8 September 2021 1.52 PM (latest)

Mental Health: Calls to 1737 Need to Talk?

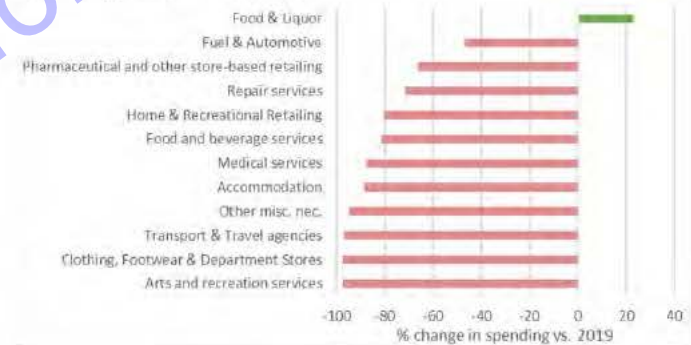


#### Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

In the week ending 5 September, consumer spend by BNZ card holders was down in all regions. It decreased by 51% in Auckland and 28% in the rest of the country compared to the same week in 2019. Spending by BNZ card holders fell in all categories except for food and liquor, where spending grew 23.2% relative to the same week in 2019.

MBIE: 6 September 2021 3.55 PM

Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019



### Economic Indicators

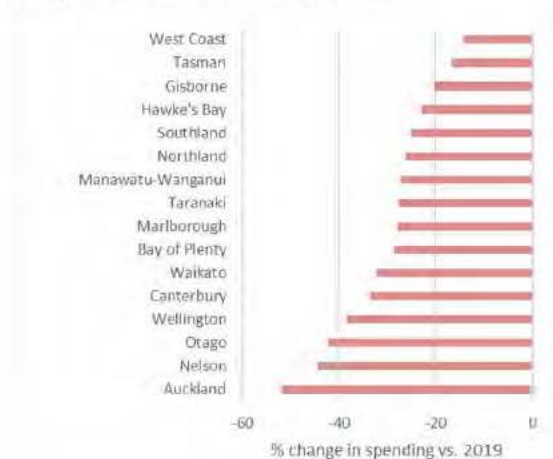
#### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

27,305 wage subsidy applications were received yesterday, a decrease of 6,377 from the previous day.

As at 7 September, \$1.504 billion has been paid in wage subsidies to support 1.016 million jobs, including employees of 256,395 businesses and 127,875 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development: 8 September 2021 8.46 AM

Change in Regional Spend Vs Same Week in 2019



# The Bigger Picture

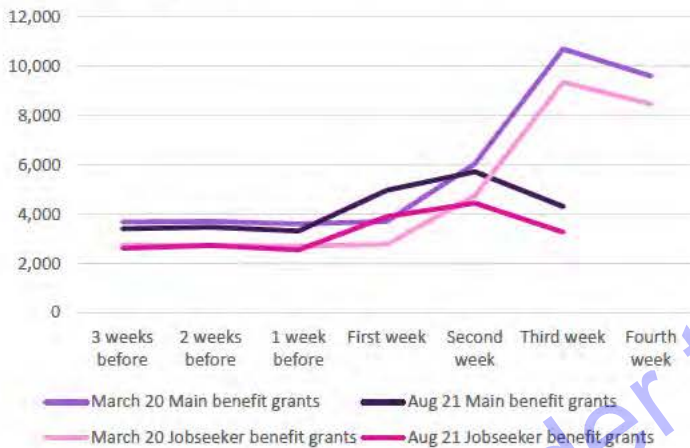
## Social & Community

### Benefit Payments and Jobseeker Grants

Payments of both main benefits and jobseeker grants has been significantly lower during the current response than during the initial lockdown in March 2020. The earlier rise and peak on this occasion implies increased literacy in accessing support among recipients, while the earlier fall may reflect the movement from AL4 to AL3 south of Auckland.

Ministry of Social Development, 8 September 2021 10.08 AM

March 2020 and August 2021 wage subsidies: main benefit and jobseeker grants by week



### Food Grants

The trend in the provision of food grants aligns with the trend visible in benefit payments and jobseeker grants, which reinforces the suggestion that the movement to AL3 has eased pressure on those needing social support. However, the significantly higher demand in the first two weeks of this response may indicate increased economic vulnerability among this group than was present in March 2020.

Ministry of Social Development, 8 September 2021 10.08 AM

March 2020 and August 2021 wage subsidies: food grants by week



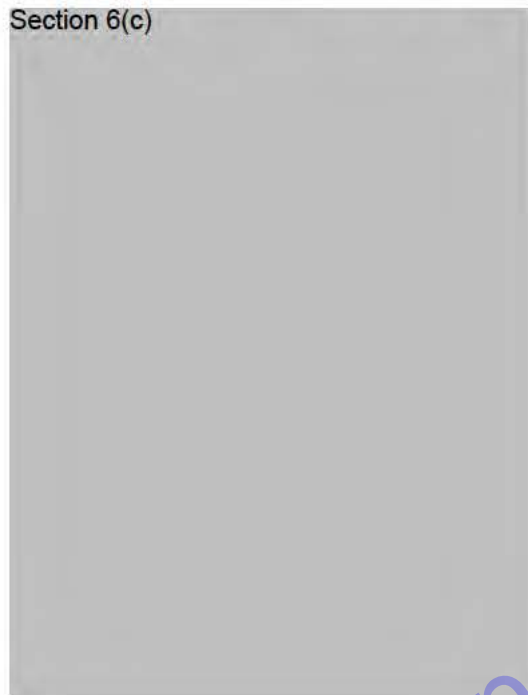
Released under the Official Information Act 1982

# The Bigger Picture

## Compliance

There are several protest, false-information, and non-compliance activities occurring during the current response. Some of the most high-profile ones are highlighted below.

### Section 6(c)



### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings

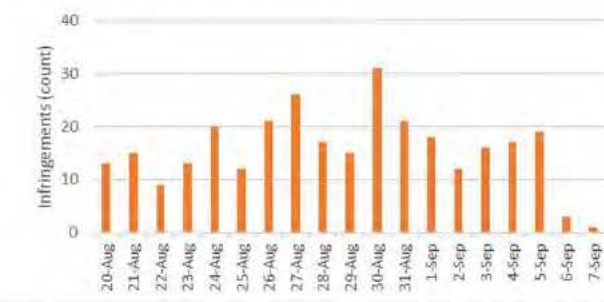
Since the change to Alert Level 3 in areas south of Auckland, infringements, prosecutions, and warnings related to COVID-19 have decreased. Decreases in total infringements appear to be driven by decreases outside Auckland. In Auckland, infringement rates appear to be decreasing but at a slower rate than the rest of the country. Infringements remain particularly high in the Counties/Manukau policing district. There does not appear to be any regional trend in prosecutions or warnings.

New Zealand Police: 8 September 2021 6.28 AM. Information as of 7 September 5.00 PM

Infringements

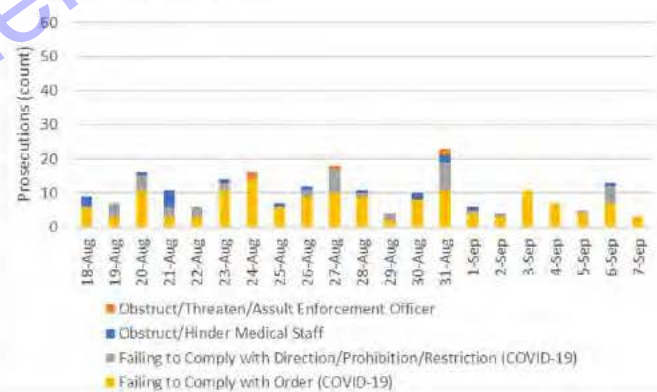


Infringements: All Other Infringements (Not Including Non-Essential Travel)

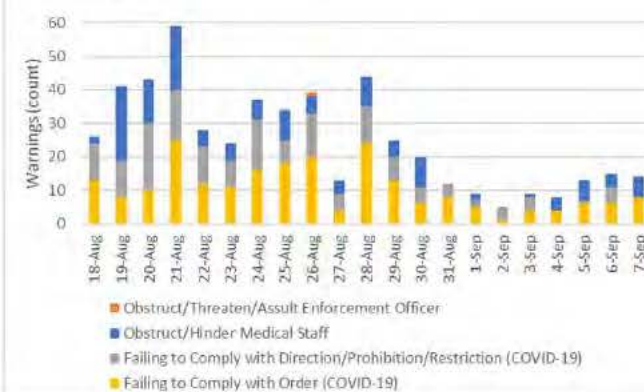


Note: Other infringements include failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Prosecutions By Offence



Warnings by Offence



## COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

8 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="mailto:alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz">alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz</a>
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		<a href="mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz">COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz</a>

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

10 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### Health & Border

#### Community Cases

There are 879 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 11 new cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.  
Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### Contact Tracing

1,158 close plus contacts have been identified.

1,144 (98%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 372 have returned a positive test result, while 585 have tested negative.

33,547 close contacts have been identified. 30,531 (91%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 133 have returned a positive test result, while 24,388 have tested negative.

There are 3,356 casual plus contacts.  
Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### Vaccination

There have been 2,758,597 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,404,821 people have been fully vaccinated.

There are 1,812,680 future bookings.  
Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 10.40 AM  
Information as of 9 September 2021 11.59 PM

#### Testing

There were 14,281 tests yesterday, 27% of surge testing capacity. This signals a reduction of more than 3,000 from the previous day, on which 17,684 tests were conducted. There are sufficient supplies for 181,587 tests on hand.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### PPE

PPE usage has recently decreased to within low pandemic rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply available at high pandemic response use rates.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 2.47 PM

### Health & Border

#### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is over 20 ICU beds and over 60 ventilators.

Capital and Coast DHB has more than 10 ICU beds and over 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.00 PM

#### COVID APP Usage

The NZ COVID Tracer app has 3,195,408 registered users, increasing by over 20,000 since Wednesday. There have been 2,198,570 scans today, up from 1,433,928 on Wednesday, signaling increased movement of people.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### Healthline

Healthline had 4,323 contacts yesterday, 807 fewer than Tuesday. Of those contacts, 2,429 were calls to the COVID-19 Info Line, 1,132 fewer than Tuesday. There are increasing numbers of calls about testing protocols for cross-boundary travel.

Ministry of Health, 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### MIQ Capacity

There are 3,768 people in managed isolation, 91 fewer than yesterday. 92% of operational capacity (total available MIQ rooms) is allocated.

There are 665 people in quarantine facilities, which is 71 less than yesterday. 489 of 686 rooms are filled (71%).

MBIE: 10 September 2021 1.13 PM

#### Transboundary Travel for Vaccination

Some callers to Healthline have raised concerns regarding crossing the AL4 boundary to access pre-booked vaccination appointments in Auckland, and that although permitted under the Health Order, they have been turned away at the boundary.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.02 PM.

### Health & Border

#### Health System

There are 27 hospitalised cases, 10 fewer than yesterday. Four cases are in ICU, all of whom require ventilation.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.02 PM.

#### Maritime Border

There are an estimated 26 merchant vessels currently in ports around NZ today. Seven merchant vessels are scheduled to arrive into NZ today with an estimated 146 crew in total. Four merchant vessels are scheduled to depart NZ today with an estimated 80 crew in total.

NZ Customs Service: 10 September 2021 2.11 PM

#### Air Border – Pre Departure Test Screening

Customs continue to screen 100% of passengers requiring pre-departure tests, with one warning noted for Wednesday 8 September.

NZ Customs Service: 10 September 2021 2.11 PM

#### Air Border - Staffing

Staffing levels are adequate to cover all shifts and flight requirements.

NZ Customs Service: 10 September 2021 2.11 PM

#### Air Border – Vaccine Shipment

Auckland Airport have confirmed that security is in place for the safe movement of today's vaccine shipment.

NZ Customs Service: 10 September 2021 2.11 PM

### Compliance

#### Non-Compliance

In Auckland, 1 person was prosecuted yesterday for a COVID-19 related offence, 2 fewer than the previous day. 3 people were warned yesterday, 5 fewer than the previous day. There were 42 infringements issued yesterday for COVID-19 related breaches, 39 fewer than the previous day.

New Zealand Police: 10 September 2021 6.32 AM.  
Information as of 9 September 5.00 PM.

### Compliance

#### Online Breach Notifications

There were 101 compliance breaches reported to Police online yesterday. This is a decrease of 31 breach notifications compared to the previous day. Of the breaches, 58% (59) related to gatherings, 31% (31) related to businesses, and 11% (11) related to individuals. The rate of reports continues to fall steadily and is less than 10% of the peak of two weeks ago.

New Zealand Police: 10 September 2021 6.32 AM.  
Information as of 9 September 5.00 PM.

#### Travel Compliance

Approximately 15,227 vehicles were recorded going through checkpoints in the 24 hours to 11.59 PM, 9 September 2021. 174 vehicles (1.1%) were turned around for not having an exemption/permitted travel.

New Zealand Police: 10 September 2021 12.00 PM

#### Public Sentiment

Analysis of online public social media sentiment showed that conversation around mental health increased by 19% this week, with people discussing the effects of ongoing lockdown on mental health. Mental health organisations are also engaging in conversations to highlight Mental Health Awareness week later this month. Most online conversation continues to focus on the virus, lockdown decisions (43% negative and 48% neutral sentiment), effects on businesses (35% negative and 57% neutral), and the vaccine rollout (48% negative and 40% neutral).

DPMC: 9 September 2021 4.59 PM

Section 6(c)



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

10 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### AOG Coordination

#### Communications

The focus for communications includes Alert Level 2 messaging, Alert Level boundaries, and addressing disinformation in the Pacific and Chinese communities. The recent COVID-19 death and David Seymour's tweet has generated concern in Māori communities

DPMC: 9 September 2021 2:34 PM

#### Policy

DPMC is preparing two Cabinet papers for consideration on 13 September: a review of Alert Levels; and a short paper on extending the suspension of Trans-Tasman Quarantine Free Travel. DPMC are also continuing to work through issues agencies have identified with the current Order.

DPMC: 10 September 2021 9:58 AM

### Regional Coordination

#### Travel Exemption Requests

As at 4.00 PM 10 September, MPI has received 432 requests for a boundary exemption, an increase of 14 since Wednesday. 124 requests were approved, 94 declined, and the remainder either withdrawn or are awaiting further information.

Ministry of Primary Industries: 10 September 2021 4.00 PM

#### Ministry of Health - Boundary Exemptions

As at 8.14 AM on 10 September, the Ministry of Health received a total of 2,847 requests for a boundary exemption. Of these, 2,349 have been completed, with 114 approved, 1,817 declined, and 418 referred to MBIE. Of the 1,931 exemption requests considered within the Ministry of Health's mandate, 5.9% were approved.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 8.14 AM

#### Fire and Emergency Resourcing

69 Fire and Emergency personnel are isolating after visiting locations of interest, 4 fewer than yesterday. Personnel availability remains adequate nationwide.

Fire and Emergency NZ: 10 September 2021 2.02 PM

#### Police Resourcing

Police report that a number of staff have been stood down for visiting recently announced locations of interest. Data on the exact number of staff are not yet available. Police report this may impact resourcing in Auckland but did not provide an assessment of likelihood or potential impacts of any resourcing shortage.

New Zealand Police: 10 September 2021 1.30 PM

### Social & Community

#### Mental Health

There were 677 contacts to "1737 Need to talk?" yesterday, 10 more than the previous day.

Ministry of Health, 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### Access to Food

There are issues with food delivery services not willing to deliver food to apartment dwellers. This has been escalated to MOH who are working on public information for high density housing settings.

NEMA, 10 September 2021 1.24 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Traffic

In Auckland, traffic is approximately 31% of baseline levels (compared to the same week in 2019) but light and heavy vehicle traffic is increasing at a rate of 1-3% per day, indicating increasing amounts of movement as AL4 continues. Outside of Auckland, traffic remains below baseline levels in Christchurch (50% vs. the same week in 2019), Wellington (57%), Hamilton (76%) and Dunedin (71%).

Ministry of Transport, 10 September 2021 9.50 AM

#### Transport

Wellington bus patronage this week was 19% of patronage in the same week in 2019, and Christchurch was at 29% compared to 2019. No issues have been reported related to the "no standing rule" on public transport and Waka Kotahi anticipate most services will not be affected under AL2. Waka Kotahi and MoT are working with operators to monitor capacity issues under AL2.

Ministry of Transport: 10 September 2021 9.05 AM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Supermarket Resourcing

As at September 7, Countdown has approximately 800 staff not currently working as a result of COVID-19 risks, down from 2,100 on September 2. Two Countdown stores remain closed. Foodstuffs North Island has eight staff self-isolating, 28 fewer than on September 8.

MBIE: 10 September 2021 3.00 PM

#### Infrastructure Resourcing

In the water sector, Watercare have 11 staff self-isolating (26 fewer than September 8). Citycare have no staff self-isolating (two fewer than September 8). There are 24 staff self-isolating across the fuel sector (76 fewer than September 8), and five staff self-isolating in the electricity and gas sectors respectively.

MBIE: 10 September 2021 3.00 PM

#### Mandatory Testing at Alert Level Boundary

MBIE are monitoring the impact of mandatory COVID-19 testing for Alert Level boundary travel, as mandatory testing of essential workers has the potential to disrupt operations and the ability for key utilities to respond to unforeseen emergencies. MBIE are working with Ministry of Health, Crown Law, Police and supermarkets to seek clarity about mandatory testing requirements and ensure smooth implementation.

MBIE, 10 September 2021 3.00 PM

#### Digital Infrastructure

DIA staff are experiencing remote connection issues and are investigating whether this impacts customer-facing services. Technical support will work over the weekend to resolve issues. No other issues were reported.

Department for Internal Affairs, 10 September 3.14 PM

#### Telecommunications, Energy, Water, Waste

No issues reported.

MBIE, 10 September 2021 3.00 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

10 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Health & Border

#### Healthline and Testing Hesitancy

Testing hesitancy continues among callers to Healthline. Reasons for this include concerns around having to go into MIQ, positive case shaming, and essential worker wage pressure, despite the "COVID-19 Short-Term Absence" payment available. Concerns around entering MIQ have been exacerbated by negative news and social media.

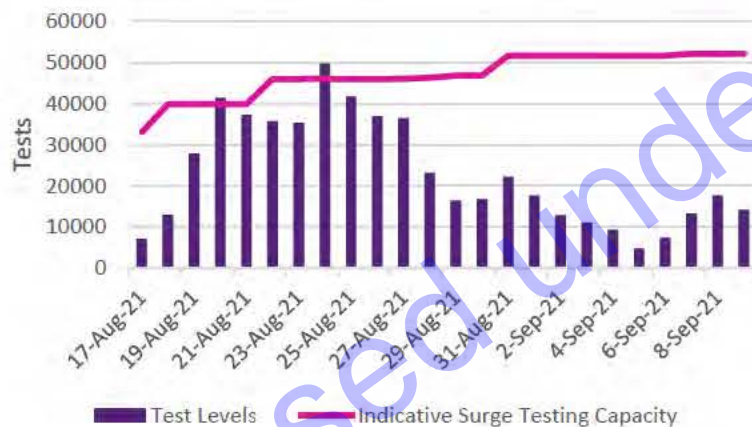
Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### Testing Levels Low

There were 14,281 tests yesterday. This follows an overall trend of decline in testing levels since 24 August. This is partly attributable to lower cases and reduced circulation of respiratory infections in the community due to restricted movement, but may also be indicative of the testing hesitancy. However, recent increases are likely to be sustained by the need to test boundary-crossing essential workers from today onwards.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 (latest)

#### Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



#### Calls to Healthline Decreasing

Call volumes to Healthline regarding COVID-19 have been declining since 24 August and are now at a lower level daily than at the beginning of the response.

Ministry of Health, 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### COVID-19 Calls to Healthline

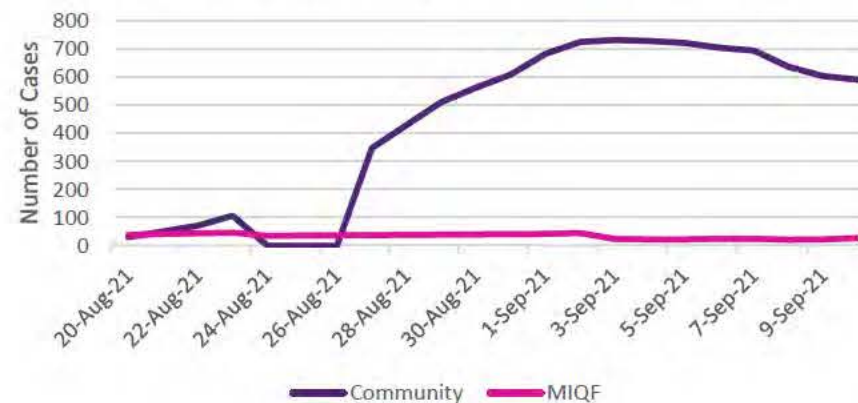


#### Active COVID-19 Cases Stabilising

After peaking on September 2, the number of active cases of COVID-19 in both MIQF and the wider community has been gradually falling. As the infected population begins to recover, active cases in the community have decreased from 731 to 590 over the past week (a drop of 19%).

Ministry of Health, 10 September 2021 1.02 PM (latest)

#### Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF

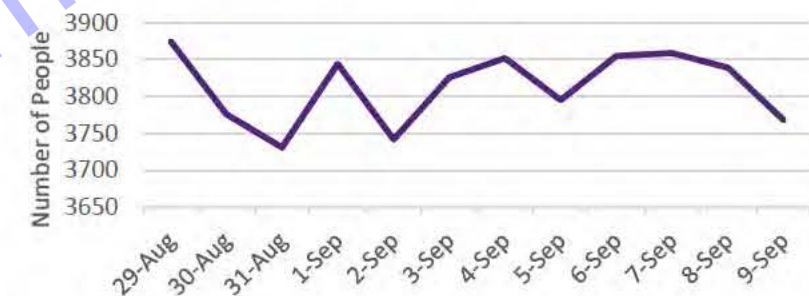


#### Managed Isolation Facility Capacity Easing

There are 3,768 people in managed isolation, 91 fewer than yesterday. 92% of operational capacity (total available MIQ rooms) is allocated.

MBIE: 10 September 2021 1.13 PM

#### Number of People currently in Managed Isolation Facilities (Capacity: 4500)



#### Mental Health Calls Stabilising

After peaking on August 30, calls to '1737 Need to Talk?' have been steadily declining. If trends continue, these will return to levels observed at the beginning of the outbreak in the coming days.

Ministry of Health: 10 September 2021 1.02 PM

#### Mental Health: Calls to 1737 Need to Talk?



#### Family Harm

Family Harm events in Auckland continue to trend lower in comparison to the same timeframe during the April 2020 AL4 lockdown. The volume of reports from the past two days were lower than at any time since AL4 began on 18 August 2021.

New Zealand Police: 8 September 2021 3.00 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

10 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

#### New 0800 Number for Support

Auckland City Council, MSD, MPP and NEMA are working together to develop an MSD 0800 number for support. The Auckland City Council is redirecting more than 30 staff to support this work and triage requests.

The Council is also providing 100 larger-than-usual food parcels to better meet the needs of large intergenerational families living in the same house. MPP are reconnecting with more than 150 Pacific leaders who have already requested food on behalf of their communities, to assess any outstanding needs.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 10 September 2021 5.00 PM

#### Vaccination For Pacific Peoples

As at 9 September, 57% of Pacific peoples have had their first vaccination dose (9% below the average for the general population), and 29% are fully vaccinated (4% below the average of the general population).

Recent Pacifika-targeted vaccination related events appear to have been well received. The Malu'i Ma'a Tonga (MMT) Stay Safe for Tonga vaccination drive-through event saw strong turnout, positive feedback, and good exposure in the community and media (including One News, RNZ and Tagata Pasifika, PMN).

Several other events are ongoing or upcoming. The Ministry is supporting Etu Pasifika (a clinic in Christchurch) with a vaccination drive-through event this weekend.

The Auckland Tongan community launches a large-scale event tomorrow, 'Kolo Tonga' Mal'u Ma'a, in Mangere, Auckland.

Te Kāika Medical has partnered with the Otago Māori and Pacific student association to run a clinic in Forsyth Barr stadium in Dunedin, with a focus on vaccinating students and their whole flatting communities.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 9 September 2021 5.34 PM

DPMC: 9 September 2021 5.15pm

#### Vaccination for Pacific Peoples

Pacific community groups continue to raise Pacific vaccination rates as a concern. In particular, community leaders have raised requests for support to transport families to vaccination sites and concerns about COVID-19 and vaccination conspiracy theories targeting Pacific youth. MPP have launched vaccination videos in nine Pacific languages and are monitoring the outcomes of a pilot programme providing free transportation to vaccination centres for Pacific families.

Ministry of Pacific Peoples: 10 September 2021, 5.00 PM

#### Vaccination For Māori

43% of the eligible Māori population has received a first vaccine dose, compared to 66% of non-Māori. 21% of Māori have received both doses, compared to 34% of non-Māori. Efforts are being made to vaccinate vulnerable and difficult-to-reach populations, for example Kahui Tu Kaha have vaccinated 235 people in transitional housing or homeless in North Shore, Henderson and Otahuhu (75% of whom were Māori) and Waikato DHB and iwi leads are discussing a targeted rangatahi vaccination program with tumuaki of Wharekura.

DPMC: 9 September 2021 5.15pm

#### Education – Learning Devices

The Ministry of Education continues to provide devices to schools in Auckland. As at 7 September, MoE had provided 6,968 devices to schools and students predominantly in Auckland, as well as NCEA hardcopy packs and other learning materials. Schools continue to report challenges with student engagement with distance learning and deepening concerns about participation levels when they can return to onsite learning.

Caring for Communities, 8 September 11.20 AM, Ministry of Education, 8 September 2.00 PM

#### Education – Support Payments for Relief Teachers

The Ministry of Education made emergency payments to relief teachers on 8 September to support staff paid by timesheet and who would not otherwise have been paid under AL3 and AL4. 16,658 employees received the payment in the two weeks prior to 7 September. The total amount paid since 17 August is \$18.3 million.

Ministry of Education, 8 September 2.00 PM

#### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

14,930 wage subsidy applications were received yesterday, a decrease of 3,028 from the previous day.

Ministry for Social Development: 10 September 2021 8.24 AM

As at 9 September, \$1.689 billion has been paid in wage subsidies to support 1.078 million jobs, including employees of 267,310 businesses and 136,130 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development: 10 September 2021 8.24 AM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

10 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Compliance

There are several protest, false-information, and non-compliance activities occurring during the current response. One of the most high-profile is highlighted below.

Section 6(c)



### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings

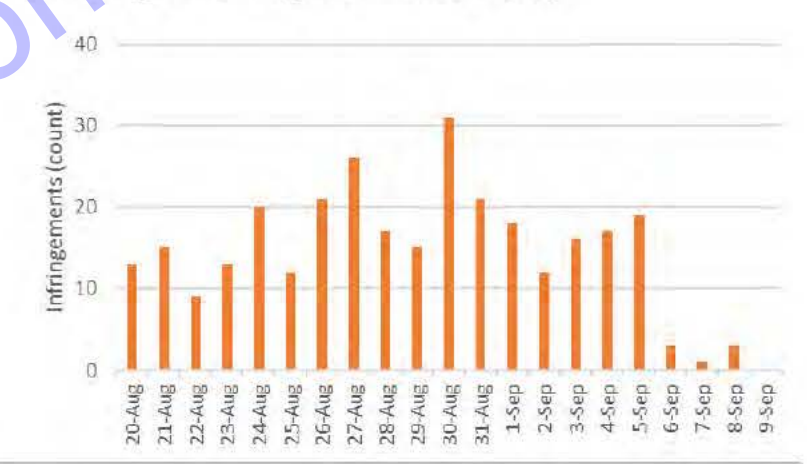
Since the change to Alert Level 3 in areas south of Auckland at 11.59 PM on 31 August 2021, infringements, prosecutions, and warnings related to COVID-19 have decreased. As of 9 September, Police no longer report infringements outside AL4. In Auckland, infringement rates appear steady under AL4.

New Zealand Police: 10 September 2021 6.32 AM. Information as of 9 September 5.00 PM.

#### Infringements Under AL3 and AL4

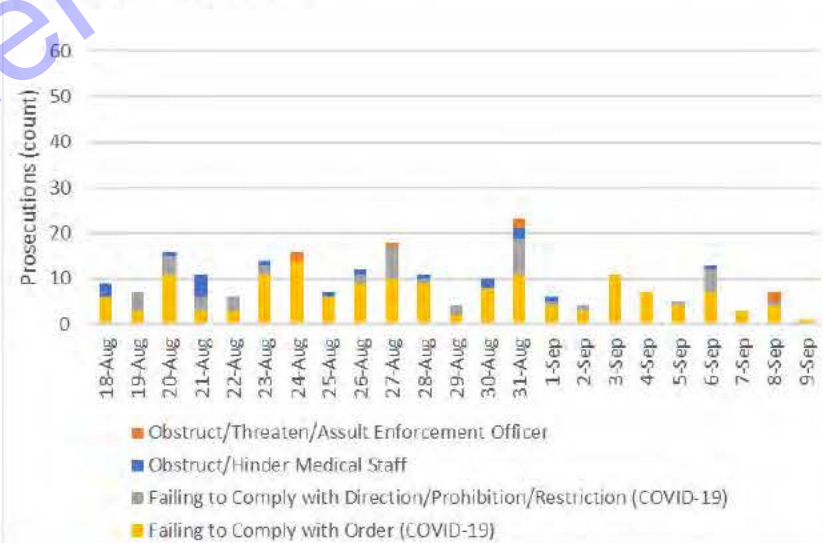


#### Infringements: All Other Infringements Under AL3 and AL4 (Not Including Non-Essential Travel)

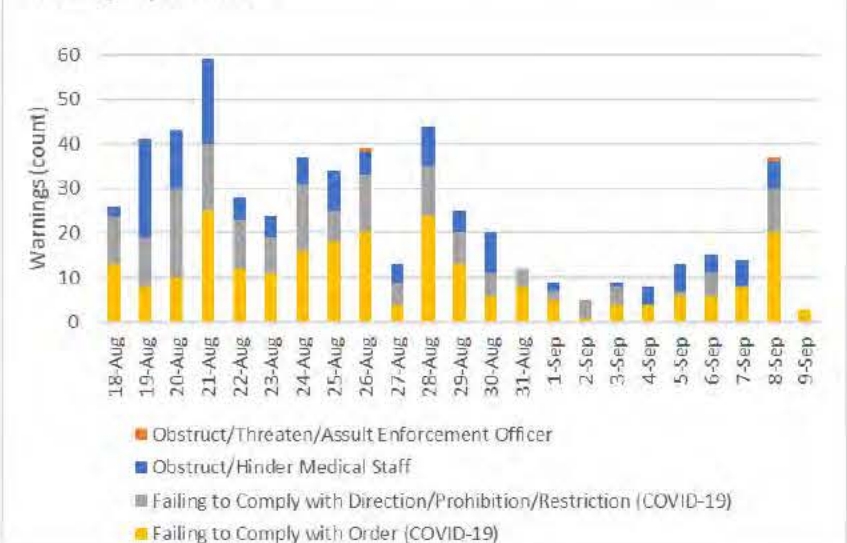


Note: Other infringements include failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

#### Prosecutions By Offence



#### Warnings by Offence



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

10 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="mailto:alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz">alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz</a>
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		<a href="mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz">COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz</a>

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

13 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### Health & Border

#### Community Cases

There are 955 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 33 new cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.  
Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 1.05 PM

#### Contact Tracing

1,215 close plus contacts have been identified.

1,205 (99%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 408 have returned a positive test result, while 623 have tested negative.

33,806 close contacts have been identified. 30,781 (91%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 137 have returned a positive test result, while 24,660 have tested negative.

There are 3,660 casual plus contacts.  
Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 1.05 PM

#### Vaccination

There have been 2,862,765 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,462,725 people have been fully vaccinated.

There are 1,716,932 future bookings.  
Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 3.52 PM  
Information as of 12 September.

#### Testing

There were 8,657 tests yesterday, 16.6% of surge testing capacity. This signals a reduction of 2,301 from the previous day, on which 10,958 tests were conducted. There are sufficient supplies for 191,611 tests on hand.

Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 1.25 PM

#### PPE

There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use. Current usage rate remain within low pandemic usage.

Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 4.15 PM

### Health & Border

#### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is over 30 ICU beds and over 60 ventilators.

Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and over 30 ventilators available.  
Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 1.04 PM

#### COVID APP Usage

The NZ COVID Tracer app has 3,209,541 registered users, increasing by over 14,133 since Friday. There have been 2,200,284 scans today, similar to the 2,198,570 scans on Friday.

Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 10.000 AM

#### Healthline

Healthline had 3,216 contacts on Saturday 12 September. Of those contacts, 1,501 were calls to the COVID-19 Info Line, 23% were sent for testing and 65% were seeking information.

Ministry of Health, 13 September 2021 1.05 PM

#### MIQ Capacity

There are 3,412 people in managed isolation. 3,627 rooms are allocated (91% of operational capacity).

There are 519 people in quarantine facilities. 474 of 686 quarantine rooms are filled (69% of capacity).

MBIE: 13 September 2021 11.42 AM

#### Mental Health

There were 575 contacts to "1737 Need to talk?" on Saturday, 107 less than the contacts reported on Friday.

Ministry of Health, 13 September 2021 1.04 PM

### Health & Border

#### Health System

There are 21 hospitalised cases, 6 less than on Friday. Four cases are in ICU, all of whom require ventilation.

Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 1.04 PM.

#### Maritime Border

The Rio de la Plata arrived in Tauranga on Sunday, with suspected COVID-19 cases onboard. Preparations were made across government for this situation, and the vessel will be operated under quarantine.

NZ Customs Service: 13 September 2021 3 PM

There are an estimated 32 merchant vessels currently in ports around NZ today. Three merchant vessels are scheduled to arrive into NZ today with an estimated 57 crew in total. Two merchant vessels are scheduled to depart NZ today with an estimated 44 crew in total.

NZ Customs Service: 13 September 2021 3 PM

#### Air Border – Pre Departure Test Screening

Customs continue to screen 100% of passengers requiring pre-departure tests, with no breaches noted.

NZ Customs Service: 13 September 2021 3 PM

### Compliance

#### Non-Compliance

In Auckland, 1 person was prosecuted yesterday for a COVID-19 related offence, 4 fewer than the previous day. 1 person was warned yesterday, 2 fewer than the previous day. There were 54 infringements issued yesterday for COVID-19 related breaches.

New Zealand Police: 13 September 2021 6.24 AM.

Information as of 12 September 5.00 PM.

### Compliance

#### Online Breach Notifications

There were 160 compliance breaches reported to Police online yesterday. This is a decrease of 94 breach notifications compared to the previous day. Of the breaches, 80% (128) related to gatherings, 11% (17) related to businesses, and 9% (15) related to individuals. The rate of reports continues to fall steadily and is less than 10% of the peak of two weeks ago.

New Zealand Police: 13 September 2021 6.24 AM.  
Information as of 12 September 5.00 PM.

#### Travel Compliance

Approximately 134,378 vehicles were recorded going through checkpoints in the 24 hours to 11.59 PM, 12 September 2021. 1565 vehicles (1.1%) were turned around for not having an exemption/permitted travel.

New Zealand Police: 13 September 2021 4.22 PM

#### Public Sentiment

Analysis of online public social media sentiment on Saturday highlighted conversation around the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, with people discussing the impact on Alert Level changes and opening borders. People were also sharing positive experiences of booking and receiving their vaccinations.

Most online conversation continues to focus on the virus (43% negative and 48% neutral), lockdown decisions (46% negative and 45% neutral sentiment) and effects on businesses (37% negative and 56% neutral). There were no major shifts in sentiment on Saturday, however most categories rose slightly in negative sentiment compared to the previous day.

DPMC: 12 September 2021 4.42 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

13 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### AOG Coordination

#### Communications

The focus for communications includes preparing messaging for today's Alert Level review for Auckland, as well as updates to shared custody arrangements between AL4 and AL2, and addressing disinformation.

There was a misleading post shared on Facebook and Twitter linking the death of a New Zealander to the COVID-19 vaccine. In response, Facebook assessed and removed the post, and Twitter locked one of the poster's accounts.

DPMC: 13 September 2021 12.49 PM

#### Policy

DPMC are preparing two Cabinet papers for consideration: a short paper for 15 September on extending the suspension of Trans-Tasman Quarantine Free Travel, and a paper on options to require all non-New Zealanders arriving from 1 November to be vaccinated. DPMC are continuing to work through issues with the Order and are preparing advice on how to reduce the risk of further outbreaks while the vaccine rollout continues.

DPMC: 13 September 2021 2.04 PM

### Regional Coordination

#### Fire and Emergency Resourcing

61 Fire and Emergency personnel are isolating after visiting locations of interest, 9 fewer than Friday. Personnel availability remains good nationwide.

Fire and Emergency NZ: 13 September 2021 2.29 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Traffic

In Auckland, traffic is 31% of baseline levels (compared to the same week in 2019). Light vehicle traffic dropped by 1% and heavy vehicle traffic increased by 5% compared to the previous week. Outside of Auckland, traffic remains below baseline levels in Christchurch (60% vs. the same week in 2019), Wellington (73%), Hamilton (86%) and Dunedin (85%).

Ministry of Transport, 13 September 2021 9.45 AM

#### Transport

Wellington bus patronage last week was 31% of patronage in the same week in 2019. Christchurch bus patronage was at 43% compared to 2019. Councils have indicated patronage is generally still at a manageable level under AL2 despite the new "no standing rule", which reduces capacity by approximately 40%.

Two councils (Northland Regional Council and Hawke's Bay) reported some passengers being left behind this week due to a lack of capacity, however there have been no significant issues to date.

Waka Kotahi: 13 September 2021 9.10 AM, Ministry of Transport: 13 September 2021 2.55 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Travel Exemption Requests

MPI has received 464 requests for a boundary exemption. 132 requests were approved, 101 declined, and the remainder either withdrawn, revoked, or are awaiting further information.

Ministry of Primary Industries: 13 September 2021 1.42 PM

#### Ministry of Health - Boundary Exemptions

As at 8 AM on 13 September, the Ministry of Health has received a total of 3,412 requests for a boundary exemption. Of these, 3,193 have been completed, with 153 approved; 2,487 declined; and 553 closed, referred to MBIE, permitted under the Order, or declined multiple times.

Of the 2,640 exemption requests considered within the Ministry of Health's mandate, 5.8% were approved.

Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 8.02 AM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Supermarket Resourcing

As of September 13, Countdown has approximately 500 staff not working as a result of COVID-19 risks, down from 800 on September 7. Two Countdown stores remain closed. Foodstuffs North Island has two staff self-isolating, six fewer than on September 10.

MBIE: 13 September 2021 2.54 PM

#### Infrastructure Resourcing

In the water sector, Watercare have 11 staff self-isolating (no change from 10 September). There are 24 staff self-isolating across the fuel sector (no change from 10 September), and seven staff self-isolating in the gas sectors (up two from 10 September). There are no staff self-isolating in the electricity sector (down five since 10 September).

MBIE: 13 September 2021 2.54 PM

#### Digital Infrastructure

A solution was implemented over the weekend to resolve the remote connection issues experienced by DIA staff on Friday. Customer facing websites have not been impacted. No new issues were reported.

Department of Internal Affairs: 13 September 12.00 PM

#### Telecommunications, Energy, Water, Waste

No issues reported.

MBIE: 13 September 2021 2.54 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

13 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

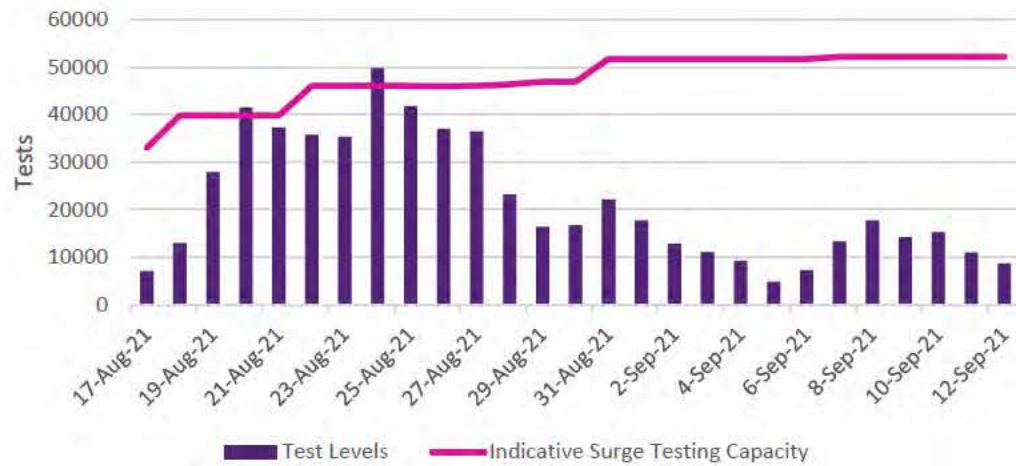
### Indications of Public Sentiment

#### Testing Levels Decreasing

There has been an overall general reduction in testing levels since 24 August. Low testing overall may be partly attributable to lower cases and reduced circulation of respiratory infections in the community due to restricted movement, but may also be indicative of testing hesitancy.

Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 9.38 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



#### Calls to Healthline Decreasing

As at 12 September, call volumes to Healthline regarding COVID-19 have reduced and are now at the lowest level since the beginning of the recent COVID-19 outbreak.

Ministry of Health, 13 September 2021 1.00 PM

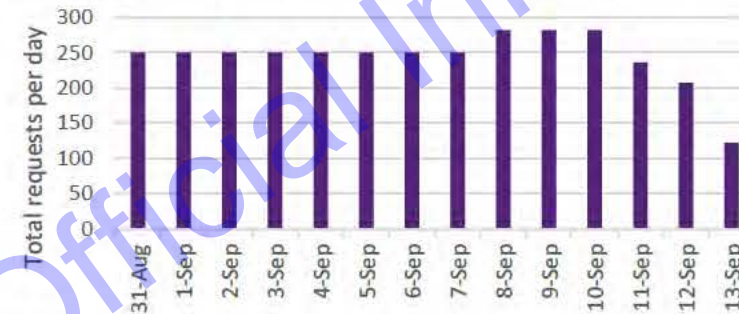


#### Health, MBIE, and MPI Boundary Exemptions

Health receive around 200 requests each day for exemptions to cross the AL4 boundary. The rate of requests appears to be decreasing. Health approve around 5% of all requests directly and refer some requests to MBIE and MPI. MBIE and MPI approve between 10% and 30% of the requests they receive.

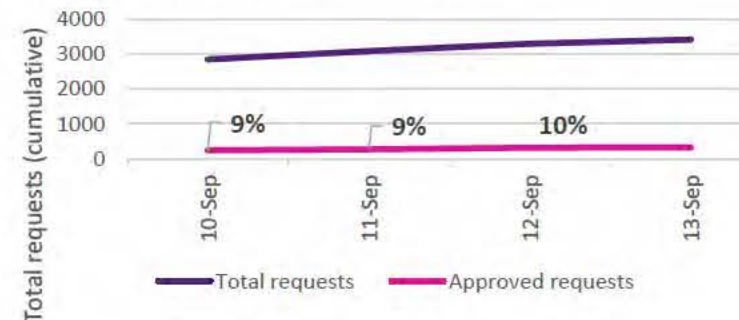
Ministry of Health, 13 September 2021 8.02 AM

Approximate Daily Volume of Requests to MOH for Boundary Travel Exemptions to Leave AL4 Areas



Note: the data for Aug 31-7 Sept and 8-10 Sept represent daily averages for those periods, as daily data was unavailable.

Total Requests/Approvals to MOH, MBIE, MPI and Other Agencies for Boundary Travel Exemptions



#### Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints less than 1% of vehicles stopped between 1 to 9 September were turned back. There has been one incident of an individual failing to stop.

A range of reporting indicates that a small amount of people may be seeking to evade checkpoints by using farm or private roads, foot tracks, train tracks, small trucks (which are not stopped), abusing official paperwork at crossing points, and attempting to cross at different checkpoints after being turned away from one. This is likely related to the growing level of 'unrest' noted in calls to Healthline regarding people needing to cross the Auckland Boundary. New Zealand Police 7.20AM 11 September, Ministry of Health 1.00PM 11 September

#### Concerns Regarding MIQ for Vaccinated People

Some New Zealander's have begun to question the reasoning behind the 14 day stay in MIQ facilities after they have been vaccinated. There is a sentiment amongst some members of the public that vaccinated travellers are lower risk than unvaccinated New Zealanders going through MIQ facilities on return from overseas.

RNZ News: 13 September 2021 1.02 PM

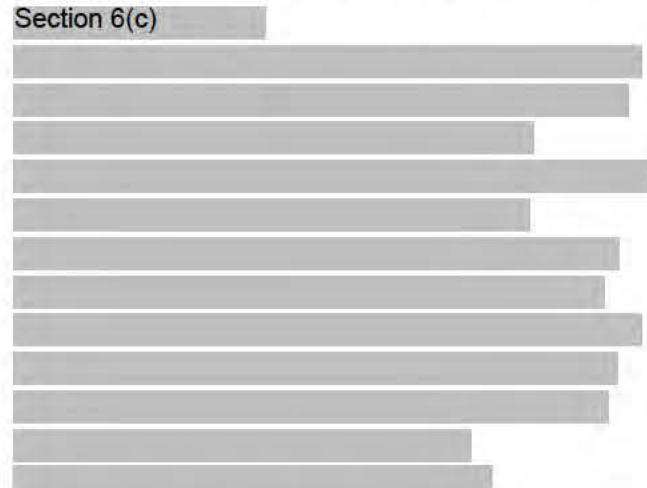


# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

13 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Indications of Public Sentiment



#### Complaints About Mask Wearing

Some people who are exempt from wearing a mask, such as those with a disability or health condition, are feeling embarrassed and/or discriminated against after being turned away from supermarkets, even with proof of exemption.

There are also reports of "anti-maskers" abusing exemption accreditations, making it more difficult to identify those who are genuinely exempt. An interagency working group monitoring face mask discrimination and exemption issues has identified the need to support those who qualify for exemptions by updating messaging, providing resources, and having ongoing discussions with supermarkets to ensure frontline staff have the right information.

DPMC: 13 September 2021 2:13 PM, NZ Herald: 9 September 2021 5:45PM

#### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings

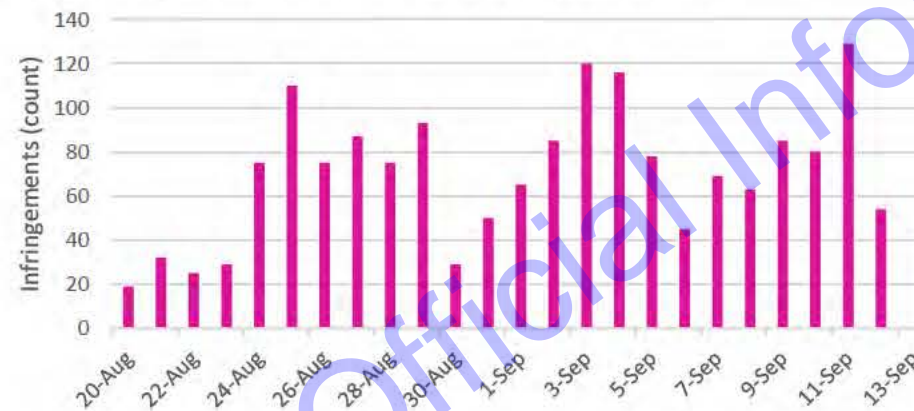
Compliance is generally high, however, there has been a recent spike in infringements in Auckland, which has since decreased.

Reporting of Alert Level 4 breaches largely related to people from different bubbles congregating in public places.

New Zealand Police: 13 September 2021 6.24 AM. Information as of 12 September 5 PM

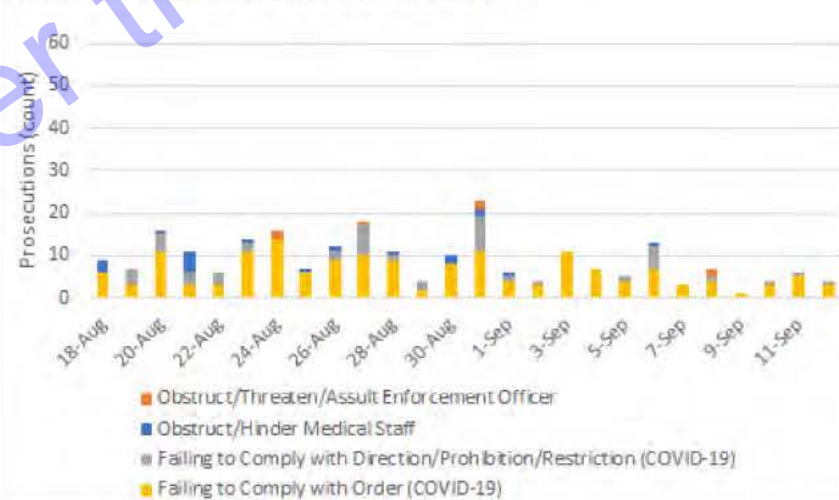
Note: As of 9 September, Police no longer report infringements outside AL4.

#### Total Infringements under AL3 and AL4 - Auckland Only

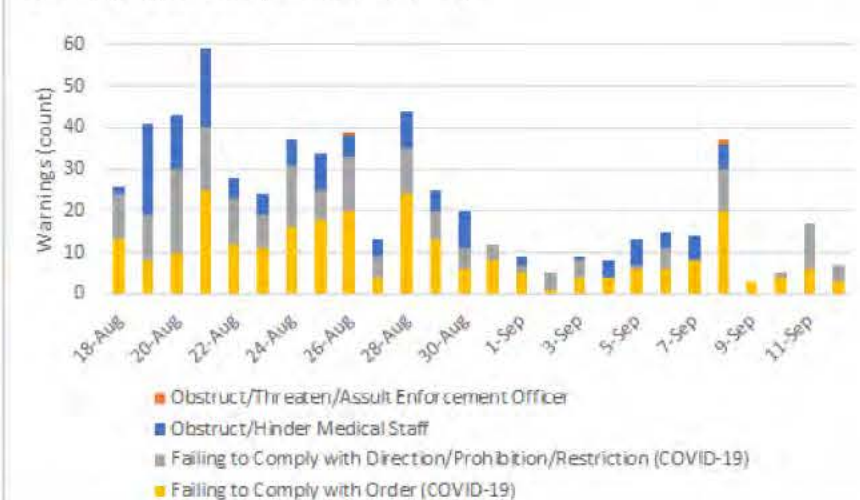


Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

#### Prosecutions By Offence (AL3 and AL4 Areas)



#### Warnings by Offence (AL3 and AL4 Areas)



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

13 September 2021



## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

#### Education - Special Needs Education Challenges

Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) are reaching out for mental health resources to support whānau of students with complex behaviour needs. As lockdown goes on, behaviour is becoming more dysregulated, leading to incidents of whānau feeling unsafe due to no longer being able to follow safety plans effectively. MoE are helping to broker access to relevant agencies and community groups.

Ministry of Education: 10 September 2021 4.00 PM

#### Education – Student Wellbeing During Alert Level 4

Secondary School Youth Workers contacting students/whānau in Auckland have found some are in dire straits without funds and food. MoE report food parcels are being delivered.

Ministry of Education: 10 September 2021 4.00 PM

#### Education – Distance Learning

The Ministry of Education continues to provide devices to schools. As at 9 September, MoE had distributed 9,187 devices nationwide, fulfilling 93% of total requests (9,906). Of these, 5,736 devices were for Auckland. 719 requests for devices remain outstanding, with 1,200 devices left in the warehouse, and additional stock of 1,500 devices currently stuck off-shore. MoE are currently meeting the needs of the education sector and are monitoring stock levels in case demand changes.

Ministry of Education, 10 September 4.00 PM

The Ministry of Education are developing four weeks of new content for Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV. The first tranche of scripts has been through quality assurance and is now ready for production.

Ministry of Education, 10 September 4.00 PM

#### Education – ‘Learning Village’ for Migrant Students

Approximately 100 migrant and former refugee students in 47 intermediate and secondary schools are enrolled in the “Learning Village”, an online English course funded by MoE. The provider has connected with schools and teacher aides during lockdown to support them in delivering lessons remotely. There has been no drop in usage, and an increase in engagement for some students during the lockdown period.

Ministry of Education, 10 September 4.00 PM

#### Education – Schools Closed in Tai Tokerau Region

Five schools and two Early Childhood Education providers are impacted by staff living in the Auckland area unable to cross the border to Tai Tokerau. One kura and two ECE are closed.

Ministry of Education, 10 September 4.00 PM

#### Government Support for Food Access

The Government is responding to a need for support in Auckland and has committed a further \$10 million to help people access ongoing food and other essential items. This latest tranche is targeted at the Auckland region, helping providers and organisations to distribute over 50,000 more food parcels, and 20,000 essential wellbeing packs

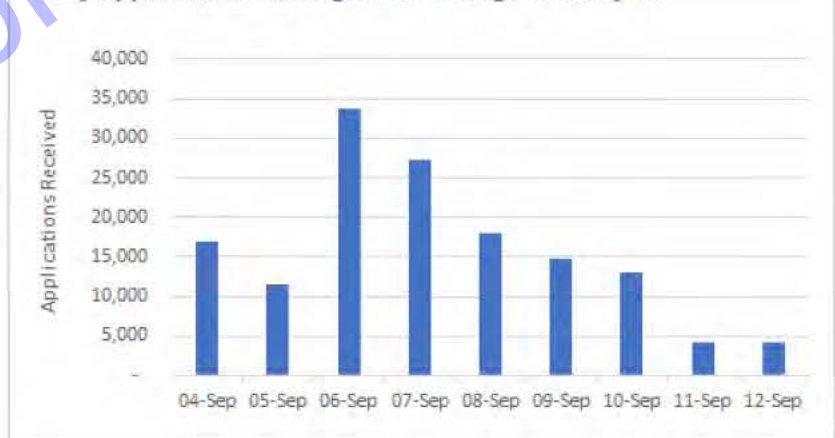
Caring for Communities: 13 September 2021 12.05 PM

#### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

4,170 applications for the August 2021 Wage Subsidy #2 were received on 12 September, a decrease of 15 from the previous day, and a decrease of 8,350 from two days prior. The number of applications has continued to decrease each day since Monday 6 September, when it peaked at 33,682.

Ministry for Social Development: 13 September 2021 10.19 AM

Daily Applications for August 2021 Wage Subsidy #2



As at 12 September, \$1.793 billion has been paid in wage subsidies to support 1.124 million jobs, including employees of 274,246 businesses and 140,835 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development: 13 September 2021 9.53 AM

#### Family Harm

Family Harm events in Auckland continue to trend lower in comparison to the same timeframe during the April 2020 AL4 lockdown. The volume of reports from the past two days have remained below any point in the previous month.

New Zealand Police: 11 September 2021 2.00 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

13 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Health & Border

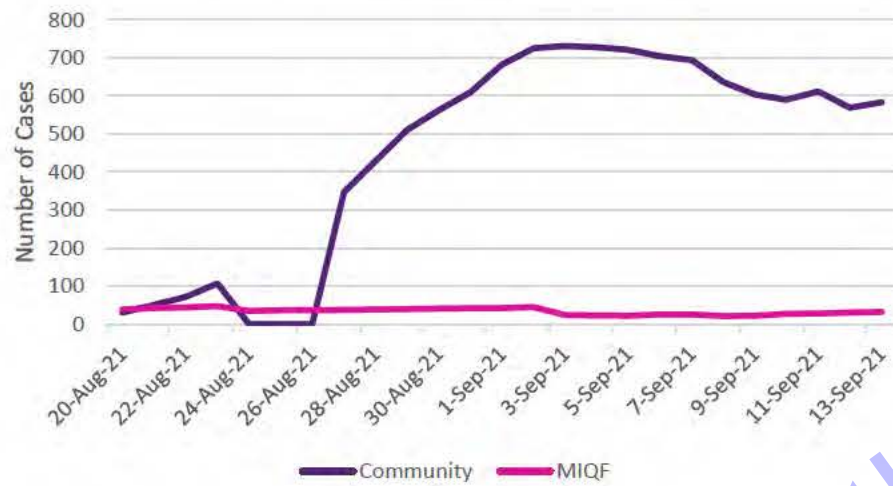
#### Active COVID-19 Cases Stabilising

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the community peaked at 731 on 3 September and has since declined.

The numbers of active COVID-19 cases identified in the community is 582, a rise of 14 from Sunday. The number of active COVID-19 cases identified in MIQ facilities (border cases) peaked on 2 September and has since declined reaching 32 on 13 September.

Ministry of Health, 13 September 2021 1.05 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF

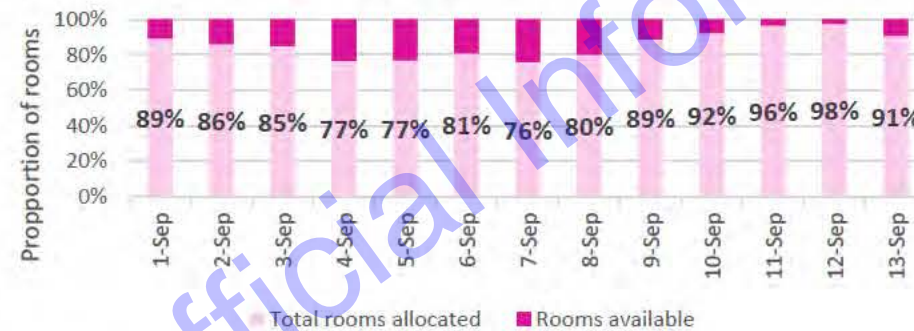


#### Managed Isolation and Quarantine

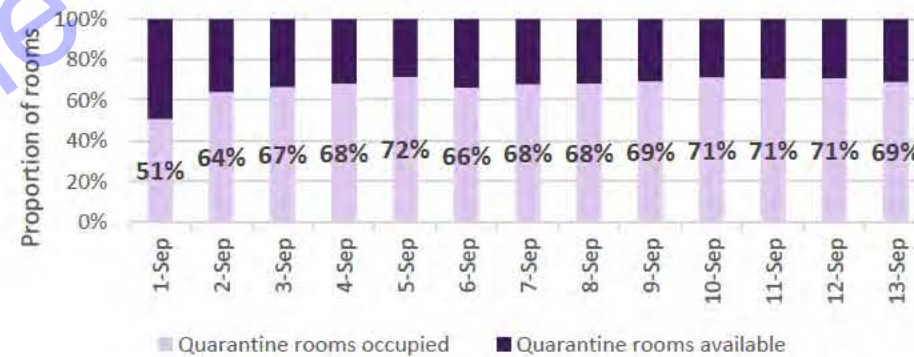
MIQ's current managed isolation capacity is 4,000 rooms. An additional 686 Quarantine rooms are available. Occupancy in managed isolation room has fluctuated between 75% and 98% since 1 September. Occupancy in quarantine rooms has mostly hovered between 64% and 72%.

MBIE: 13 September 2021 10.00AM

Managed Isolation Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



Quarantine Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

13 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="mailto:alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz">alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz</a>

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

15 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### Health & Border

#### Community Cases

There are 983 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 14 new cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 1.46 PM

#### Contact Tracing

Note: the Ministry of Health is now only reporting traced contacts that are currently being managed, i.e. those that are awaiting testing and results.

264 close plus contacts have been identified. 263 (99%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 0 have returned an initial positive result. 706 close contacts have been identified. 661 (93%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. 642 have had an initial test, and 1 has returned an initial positive result.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 1.47 PM

#### Vaccination

There have been 2,937,591 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,506,474 people have been fully vaccinated.

There are 1,734,985 future bookings.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 10.35 AM  
Information as of 14 September.

#### Testing

There were 15,105 tests yesterday, 28.9% of surge testing capacity. This is an increase of 5,826 from the previous day, on which 9,279 tests were conducted. There are sufficient supplies for 174,932 tests.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 9.10 AM

#### Worker Testing

Staff from a range of industries in Auckland have been asked to get tested, even if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms. These include healthcare, emergency services, petrol stations, transport workers, supermarkets and dairies, and transport workers.

Caring for Communities, 15 September 2021 11.00 AM

### Health & Border

#### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is over 20 ICU beds and over 60 ventilators.

Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and over 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 1.46 PM

#### COVID APP Usage

The NZ COVID Tracer app has 3,219,508 registered users, increasing by 2,130 since yesterday. There have been 2,215,655 scans today, compared to 2,145,540 scans yesterday.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 5.20 PM

#### Healthline

Healthline had 4,568 contacts on Tuesday. Of those contacts, 2,582 were calls to the COVID-19 Info Line, of which 69% were seeking information, and 23% were sent for testing.

Ministry of Health, 15 September 2021 1.00 PM

#### MIQ Capacity

There are 3,687 people in managed isolation. 3,834 managed isolation rooms are allocated (96% of operational capacity). This figure includes some rooms not in use as a result of cohorting, or cleaning before they can be reoccupied. There are 444 people in quarantine facilities. 464 of 686 quarantine rooms are filled (68% of capacity).

MBIE: 15 September 2021 11.35 AM

#### Mental Health

There were 626 contacts to "1737 Need to talk?" on Tuesday, 4 less than the contacts reported on Monday.

Ministry of Health, 15 September 2021 1.46 PM

#### PPE

Current usage rates remain within low pandemic usage.

There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use.

Ministry of Health: 13 September 2021 2.10 PM

### Health & Border

#### Health System

There are 20 hospitalised cases, 1 less than on Monday. Four cases are in ICU, all of whom require ventilation.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 1.46 PM.

#### Maritime Border

The Rio de la Plata arrived in Tauranga on Sunday. The Medical Officer of Health in Tauranga granted permission to unload with appropriate COVID-19 testing arrangements.

NZ Customs Service: 13 September 2021 3 PM

There are an estimated 37 merchant vessels currently in ports nationwide. Seven merchant vessels will arrive in New Zealand today, with an estimated total crew of 138. Three merchant vessels are scheduled to depart NZ today with an estimated 37 crew in total.

NZ Customs Service: 15 September 2021 1.00 PM

#### Air Border – Testing and Arrivals

Customs continue to screen 100% of passengers requiring pre-departure tests, with no breaches noted.

A red zone MIQ flight from Sydney is scheduled to arrive at 5.30 PM today, with 73 passengers on board.

NZ Customs Service: 15 September 2021 1.00 PM

### Compliance

#### Non-Compliance

In Auckland, 1 person was prosecuted yesterday for a COVID-19 related offence, the same number as the previous day. 2 people were warned on Monday. No data related to warnings was provided for yesterday. There were 34 infringements issued yesterday for COVID-19 related breaches.

New Zealand Police: 15 September 2021 6.35 AM.  
Information as of 14 September 5.00 PM.

### Compliance

#### Online Breach Notifications

There were 59 compliance breaches reported to Police online yesterday. This is a decrease of 174 compared to the previous day. Of the breaches, 46% (27) related to gatherings, 41% (24) related to businesses, and 14% (8) related to individuals. The rate of reports continues to fall steadily and is less than 10% of the peak of two weeks ago.

New Zealand Police: 15 September 2021 6.35 AM.  
Information as of 14 September 5.00 PM.

#### Travel Compliance

Approximately 15,172 vehicles were recorded going through checkpoints in the 24 hours to 11.59 PM, 14 September 2021. 118 vehicles (0.8%) were turned around for not having an exemption/permitted travel.

New Zealand Police: 15 September 2021 11.59 AM

#### Public Sentiment

Analysis of social media sentiment on Monday showed conversation in the 'Team of 5 Million' category increased by 73%, and positive sentiment around this topic increased by 6%. With the announcement that Auckland would remain in AL4, people are encouraging Aucklanders to continue their good work at AL4, thanking them for their efforts to keep the country safe, and expressing frustration towards those not keeping to the rules. Most online conversation continues to focus on the virus (47% negative and 44% neutral sentiment), #NZPOL (45% negative and 42% neutral), the vaccine rollout (49% negative and 37% positive), and alert level timeframes (34% negative and 49% neutral). Most categories decreased in negative sentiment compared to the previous day.

DPMC: 14 September 2021 5.09 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

15 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### AOG Coordination

#### Communications

The focus for communications includes updated messaging on Auckland boundary testing, addressing AL2 questions from the public, and preparing topics in advance of any move between alert levels next week. Total views of the Unite Against COVID-19 website were 382,903 on September 13, up 95% on the previous day. Traffic to the Book your Vaccination website spiked following the announcement of AL4 continuity, while communications continue to foreground the theme of vaccination in Auckland.

DPMC: 15 September 2021 3.50 PM

#### Policy

DPMC are preparing a Cabinet paper for the alert level review on Monday, September 20; and a Cabinet paper exploring options for requiring all non-New Zealanders arriving from 1 November to be vaccinated. In addition, joint advice on the domestic use of vaccine certification is underway with the Ministry of Health.

DPMC: 15 September 2021 1.03 PM

### Regional Coordination

#### Fire and Emergency Resourcing

62 Fire and Emergency personnel are isolating after visiting locations of interest, 1 less than Friday. Personnel availability constraints are concentrated in AL4 regions, with 85% of staff available compared to 95-100% elsewhere.

Fire and Emergency NZ: 15 September 2021 2.51 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Traffic

In Auckland, traffic is at 31% of baseline levels (compared to the same week in 2019). Auckland had a 5% increase in light vehicle traffic and a 2% increase in heavy vehicle traffic compared to the previous week.

Outside of Auckland, traffic remains below baseline levels in Christchurch (67% vs. the same week in 2019), Wellington (84%), Hamilton (91%) and Dunedin (95%). In each city, light vehicle traffic increased compared to the previous week, by 32% to 84%. Heavy vehicle traffic increased by 3% to 27%, except for Christchurch, which decreased by 0.3%.

Waka Kotahi: 15 September 2021 9.28 AM

#### Transport

As at 14 September, under AL4, Auckland public transport patronage (including buses, trains, and ferries) was 5.4% of the same week in 2019.

Under AL2, bus patronage continues to increase, with Wellington at 50% of the same week in 2019 (up 574% from the previous week) and Christchurch at 58% of the same week in 2019 (up 291% from the previous week).

The Ministry of Transport continues to work with the sector, Ministry of Health, and All of Government representatives to support implementation of the “no standing rule” on public transport, and monitor the impact on capacity.

Waka Kotahi: 15 September 2021 9.08 AM, Ministry of Transport: 15 September 2021 3.32 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Travel Exemption Requests

MPI has received 507 requests for a boundary exemption. 136 requests were approved, 115 declined, and the remainder either withdrawn, revoked, or are awaiting further information.

Ministry of Primary Industries: 15 September 2021 3.35 PM

#### Ministry of Health - Boundary Exemptions

As at 8 AM on 15 September, the Ministry of Health has received a total of 4,234 requests for a boundary exemption. Of these, 3,800 have been completed, with 188 approved; 2,988 declined; and 624 closed, referred to MBIE, permitted under the Order, or declined multiple times.

Of the 3,800 exemption requests considered within the Ministry of Health's mandate, 4.9% were approved.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 8.08 AM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Supermarket Resourcing

Countdown has approximately 400 staff not working as a result of COVID-19 risks, down by 100 since September 13. Two Countdown stores remain closed. Foodstuffs North Island has two staff self-isolating, no change from 13 September. High demand for products and some purchase limits have been placed on some goods to maintain supply.

MBIE: 15 September 2021 3.23 PM

#### Infrastructure Resourcing

In the water sector, Watercare have 10 staff self-isolating (one less than 13 September). There are 24 staff self-isolating across the fuel sector (no change from 13 September), and five staff self-isolating in the gas sectors (down two from 13 September). There are no staff self isolating in the electricity sector.

Three staff are isolating in the waste sector.

MBIE: 15 September 2021 3.23 PM

#### Digital Infrastructure – Legal Process Continuity

Remote participation in court hearings has been scaled up since last year, including a 30% increase in capacity facilitated in collaboration with Spark. Some sessions continue to require in-person presence, and capacity gaps remain.

Department of Internal Affairs: 15 September 12.00 PM

#### Digital Infrastructure – Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attack

Following an initial notification on 14 September, there has been a sustained DDoS attack against several New Zealand organisations. CERTNZ is the incident lead, and the Government Chief Digital Officer is scheduled to distribute its advice to government organisations today.

Department of Internal Affairs: 15 September 12.00 PM

#### Telecommunications, Energy, Water, Waste

No issues reported.

MBIE: 15 September 2021 3.23 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

15 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

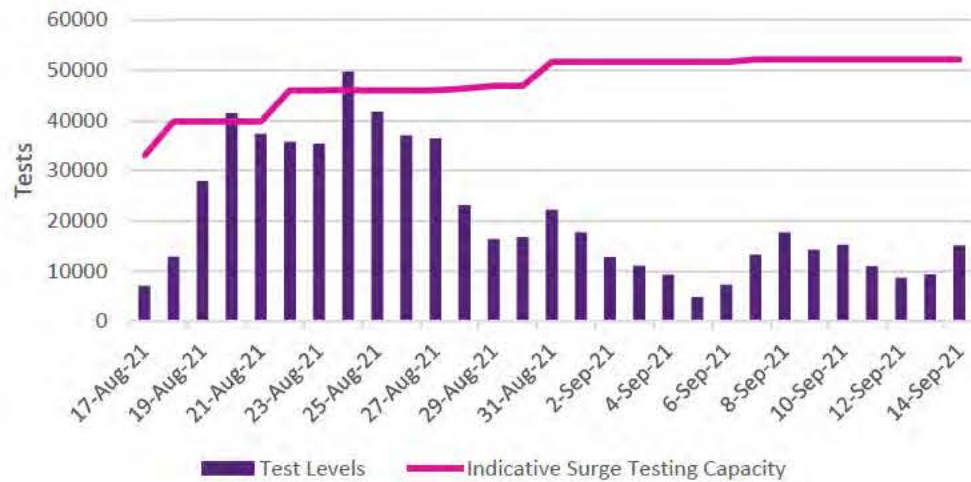
### Indications of Public Sentiment

#### Testing Levels Increasing

After an overall reduction in testing levels since 24 August, testing rates have begun to increase. However, this remains far lower than peak levels. Low testing rates may be partly attributable to reduced circulation of respiratory infections in the community due to restricted movement, but may also be indicative of testing hesitancy and COVID-19 fatigue in the community.

Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 9.50 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered

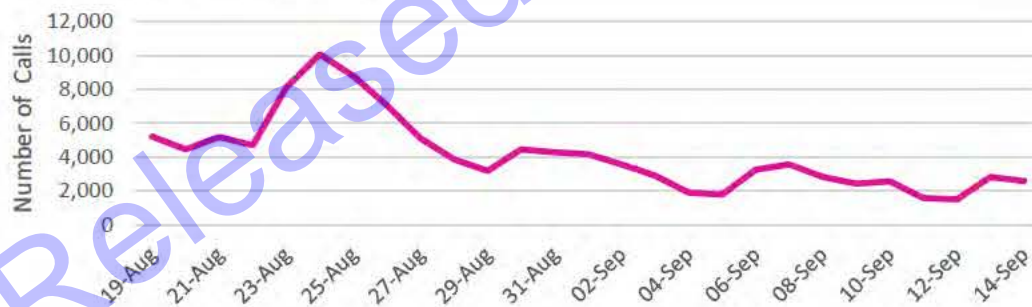


#### Calls to Healthline Decreasing

There has been a daily average of 2,326 COVID-19 related calls to Healthline in the last week, a 25% decrease from the previous week's daily average (3,115). Recent themes in the calls include concerns around the Hotel SO MIQ case reported in the media being the start of another outbreak, police seeking testing advice about lockdown breaches for people with symptoms, and vaccination side effects.

Ministry of Health, 15 September 2021 1.00 PM

COVID-19 Calls to Healthline



#### Health, MBIE, and MPI Boundary Exemptions

Health are receiving 200-300 requests each day for exemptions to cross the AL4 boundary; the volume of requests appears to be increasing. Health are approving around 5% of these requests directly and refer some requests to MBIE and MPI. MBIE and MPI approve between 10% and 30% of the requests they receive.

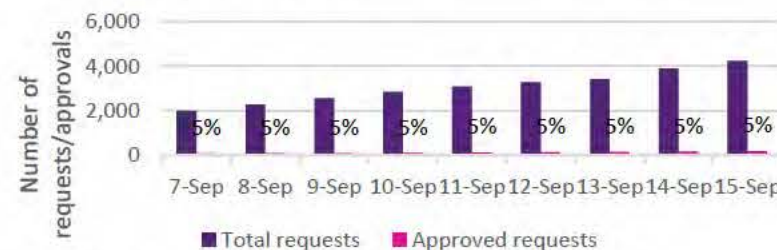
Ministry of Health, 15 September 2021 8.08 AM

Approximate Daily Volume of Requests to MOH for Boundary Travel Exemptions to Leave AL4 Areas

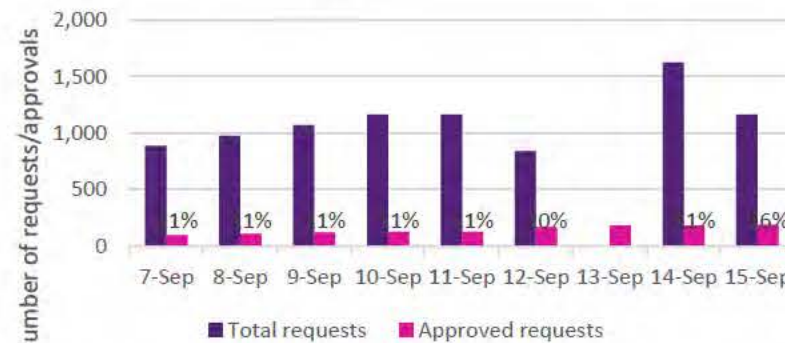


Note: the data for Aug 31-7 Sept and 8-10 Sept represent daily averages for those periods, as daily data was unavailable.

Cumulative Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MoH



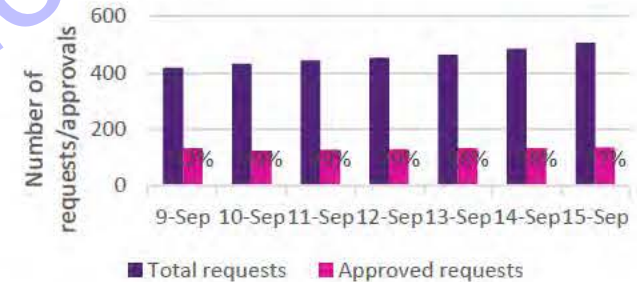
Cumulative Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MBIE, others



Note: the data for the total requests on 13 September was unavailable.

#### Health, MBIE, and MPI Boundary Exemptions

Cumulative Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MPI



#### Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 0.78% of vehicles were turned back on September 14. This is the lowest proportion compared with the past week, and less than a third of that over the weekend. This is despite significantly higher volumes of vehicles.

Police have been stopping more vehicles on average travelling into and out of Auckland since the rest of the country moved from AL3 to AL2. The misuse of essential worker status to cross the borders continues to be an issue, with generic letters that do not explicitly state that the holder is permitted to cross the borders being received at the checkpoints. Old exemption letters from the April 2020 lockdown have also been received. Police staff are remaining vigilant when inspecting documents.

New Zealand Police, 15 September 2:42 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

15 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Indications of Public Sentiment

Section 6(c)

[Redacted text]

Section 6(c)

[Redacted text]

Section 6(c)

[Redacted text]

#### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings

Compliance is generally high, however, there has been a recent spike in infringements in Auckland, which has since decreased.

Reporting of Alert Level 4 breaches largely related to people from different bubbles congregating in public places.

New Zealand Police: 15 September 2021 6.35 AM. Information as of 14 September 5 PM

Note: As of 9 September, Police no longer report infringements outside AL4.

#### Total Infringements under AL3 and AL4 - Auckland Only



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

#### Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 - Auckland Only



#### Public Sentiment about Vaccines and the Future

Analysis of social media indicates that public sentiment about the vaccine rollout continues to be low with 49% expressing negative sentiments about the rollout of the vaccines. Some concerns have also been raised about the need to prioritise Auckland to get out of Level 4 as the vaccination rates continue to be low.

Annallect Report: 12 September 2021 4:42 PM. RNZ: 13 September



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

15 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

#### Food Security and Distribution in Pacific Communities

Food security and distribution continues to be a key issue for Pacific communities. Long call wait times and delayed delivery highlight the strain on Pacific providers, and the need for additional resources and funding. MPP and MSD are working to better identify where need is greatest, align their efforts, and ensure food demand is being met.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 14 September 2021 5.00 PM

#### Food Access

Foodbanks across Auckland continue to experience high demand, with Pacific and elderly populations requiring particular attention and some providers reporting levels greater than throughout the 2020 lockdown. For example, the Auckland City Mission report their food parcel demand is triple that experienced during March/April 2020.

Centre for Communities, 15 September 2021 11.00 AM

#### Family Harm

Family Harm events in Auckland over the current lockdown period are trending lower than during the April 2020 AL4 lockdown. However, there has been an increase of cases over the past week.

Centre for Communities, 15 September 2021 11.00 AM

#### Education – Devices for Distance Learning

The Ministry of Education continues to provide devices to schools. As at 13 September, MoE had distributed 10,200 devices nationwide. Of these, 5,740 devices were for Auckland. The existing stock of available devices has fallen to 197, which is shortly due to be bolstered by 1,000 laptops arriving from Sydney.

Ministry of Education, 14 September 7.40 AM

#### Education – Internet Connectivity

Since the introduction of AL4 on August 18, 515 household internet connections have been facilitated for education with a focus on Auckland, Tai Tokerau, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Wellington.

Ministry of Education, 14 September 7.40 AM

#### Access to Educational Devices and AL4 Impact on Exams

School principals are raising concerns about 'COVID fatigue' and the expected impacts on NCEA exams, particularly among the most disadvantaged students. Pacific leaders suggest that this is exacerbated by inequalities of access to educational resources and devices.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 14 September 2021 5.00 PM

#### Education – Equity Concerns

An MSD provider has reported concerns that even though young people in South Auckland received chrome books and internet access, only a few of them are accessing online lessons. They report that there is too much going on at home for them to concentrate on their lessons – e.g. large families who are all at home, and there not being any quiet spaces.

Caring for Communities, 15 September 11.00 AM

#### Tertiary Students Fear Falling Behind

Tertiary students subject to AL4 restrictions in Auckland have expressed concerns regarding the impact of ongoing lockdown on their learning.

RNZ, 15 September 2021 7.17 AM

#### Face Covering Policies Causing Issues for People with Disabilities

Ongoing reports are being received around mandatory face covering policies creating issues and discrimination for people with disabilities.

DPMC: 15 September 2021 3.50 PM

#### Business Continuity under AL4

Following the extension of AL4 in Auckland, businesses have indicated concern for their survival prospects despite having access to resurgence support and the wage subsidy.

One News, 15 September 2021 7.31 AM

#### Businesses Suffering from Reduced Demand and Support under AL2

Businesses across the country are reporting suffering from a combination of reduced customer traffic and a lack of access to Government support under AL2.

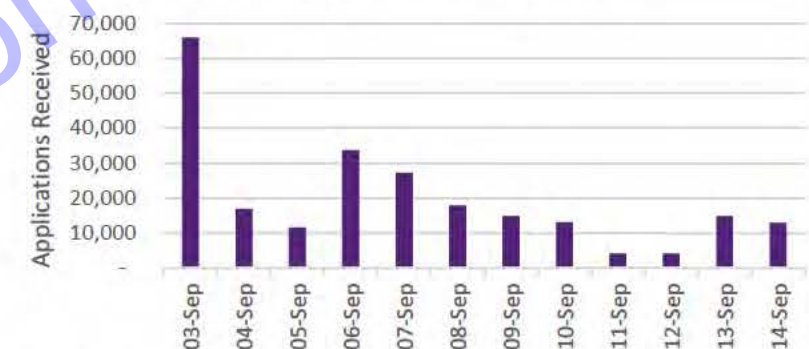
One News, 15 September 2021 5.44 AM

#### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

12,963 applications for the August 2021 Wage Subsidy #2 were received on 14 September, a decrease of 1,937 (13%) from the previous day, and a decrease of 14,251 (52%) from the same day last week. Overall, applications have trended downwards since WS #2 opened on 3 September.

Ministry for Social Development: 15 September 2021 9.48 AM

#### Daily Applications for August 2021 Wage Subsidy #2



As at 14 September, \$1.943 billion has been paid in wage subsidies to support 1.165 million jobs, including employees of 285,077 businesses and 148,866 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development: 15 September 2021 9.48 AM

#### Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

As an indicator of spending, consumer spend (through Paymark EFTPOS) was down 16.4% in the week ending 12 September, compared to the same week in 2019. Spending decreased in all major categories except Food & Liquor, which grew by 18%, and Home & Recreational Retailing, which grew by 5%.

MBIE: 13 September 2021 5:00PM

#### Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

15 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Health & Border

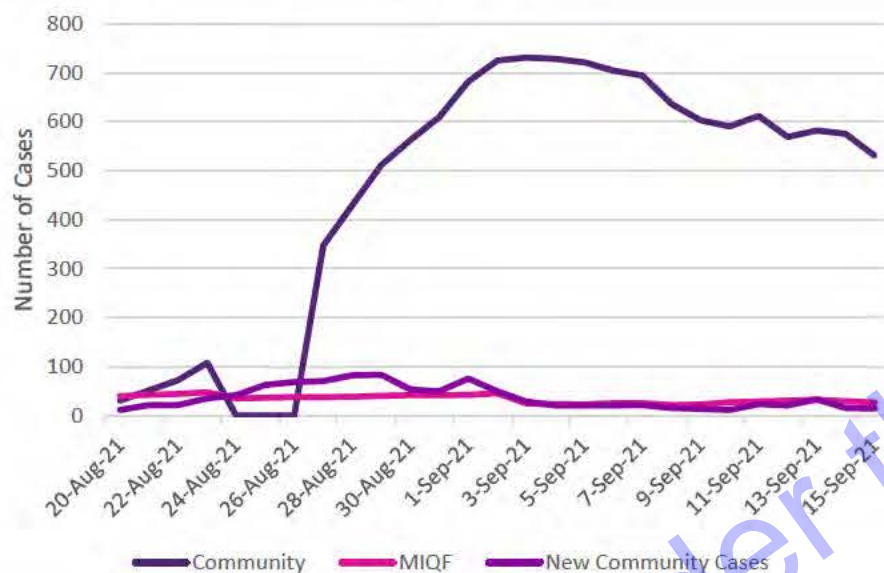
#### Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the community peaked at 731 on 3 September and has since declined, with brief and temporary increases on September 11 and 13.

The numbers of active COVID-19 cases identified in the community is now 530, a net reduction of 45 from yesterday. The number of active COVID-19 cases identified in MIQ facilities (border cases) has declined from 29 to 26 over the same period, after increasing between September 10-13.

Ministry of Health, 15 September 2021 1.45 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



#### Anxiety and Depression Spiking

In the past week, 14% of New Zealanders report experiencing symptoms of anxiety or depression. This is similar to previous AL4 reporting during 19-31 August (15%), but double that in the week ending 2 August 2020 (during AL1).

Ministry of Health: 14 September 2021

#### Mental Health Incidents Increasing

Reports of mental health incidents continue to trend higher than the 12-month weekly average. The largest increase was in Counties Manukau, with an increase of 16.

Caring for Communities, 15 September 2021 11.00 AM

#### Mental Health Concerns in Auckland and Northland

MEC, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (MHWC), and Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) have encountered several mental health concerns in Auckland and Northland, as a result of linguistic barriers, isolation, a lack of targeted mental health support for ethnic communities and the social stigma associated with seeking help. This is reinforced by the composition of calls to the 1737 Need to Talk? Helpline, which come predominantly from AL4 regions.

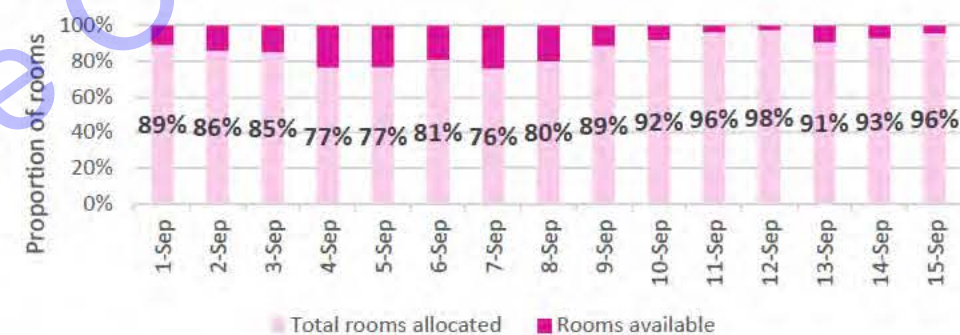
Ministry for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, 14 September 2021 5.00 PM; National Emergency Management Agency, 2.19 PM

#### Managed Isolation and Quarantine

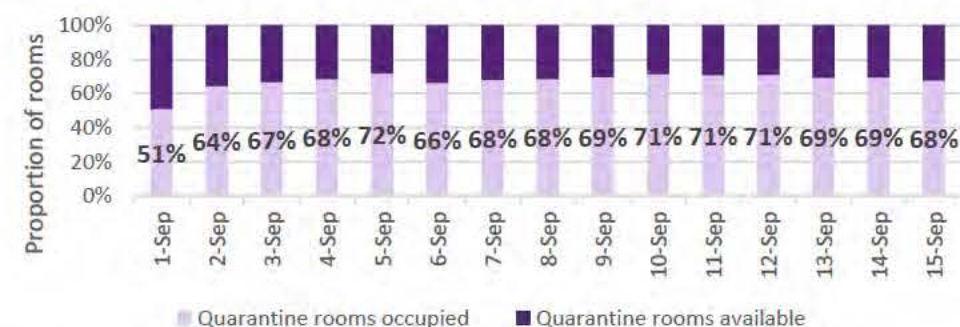
Occupancy of managed isolation rooms has fluctuated between 76% and 98% since 1 September, though space has been tighter recently, with over 90% occupancy since 10 September. Occupancy in quarantine rooms has mostly hovered between 64% and 72%.

MBIE: 15 September 2021 11.50AM

Managed Isolation Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



Quarantine Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



#### Vaccination Rates by Ethnicity

Ministry of Health data illustrates vaccination rates among Māori (22.7%) and Pacifica (31.2%) are behind those of Asian (40.5%) and European (37%) populations. However, this may be more reflective of access and age demographics than differences in vaccine sentiment. The median ages for Māori and Pacifica are 25 and 23 respectively, significantly lower than those among Asian (31) and European (41) groups.

Ministry of Health, 14 September 2021 11.59 PM

#### Vaccine Access for Specific Groups

The Latin American community has requested a targeted vaccine clinic. MOH and MEC are working with Capital and Coast DHB to establish this clinic in Porirua. ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum (CRF) and community leaders are requesting walk-in clinics for refugees who are unable to book vaccinations online or by phone. Muslim communities in Auckland are also requesting access to faith-based vaccination facilities, citing fears of racial abuse after the New Lynn mall terrorist incident. The In response, the New Zealand Muslim Association (NZMA) has recently established a dedicated facility in Epsom.

Ministry for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, 14 September 2021 5.00 PM; Caring for Communities, 15 September 2021, 11.00 AM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

15 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="mailto:alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz">alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz</a>

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

17 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### Health & Border

#### Community Cases

There are 1,007 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 11 new cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.  
Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 1.19 PM

#### Contact Tracing

1,242 close plus contacts have been identified. 1,230 (99%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. Of these, 455 have returned an initial positive result. 34,027 close contacts have been identified. 31,027 (91%) have been contacted and advised to isolate. There have been 3,696 casual plus contacts identified  
Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 1.19PM

#### Vaccination

There have been 3,015,345 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,553,910 people have been fully vaccinated.  
There are 1,574,902 future bookings.  
Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 10.31 AM

#### Testing

There were 15,419 tests yesterday, 29.5% of surge testing capacity. This is a decrease of 2,159 from the previous day, when 17,578 tests were conducted. There are sufficient supplies for 169,656 tests.  
Ministry of Health: 15 September 2021 9.10 AM

#### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa, where all ICU capacity is in use for non-COVID related health issues. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is over 20 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and over 30 ventilators available.  
Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 1.19 PM

### Health & Border

#### COVID APP Usage

The NZ COVID Tracer app has 3,225,380 registered users, increasing by 792 since yesterday. There have been 1,825,311 scans today.  
Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 2.47 PM

#### Healthline

Healthline had 3,876 contacts on Thursday. Of those contacts, 2,087 were calls to the COVID-19 Info Line, of which 74% were seeking information, and 15% were sent for testing.  
Ministry of Health, 17 September 2021 1.19 PM

#### MIQ Capacity

There are 3,464 people in managed isolation. 3,689 managed isolation rooms are allocated (92% of operational capacity). This figure includes some rooms not in use as a result of cohorting, or cleaning before they can be reoccupied. There are 363 people in quarantine facilities. 410 of 686 quarantine rooms are filled (60% of capacity).  
MBIE, 17 September 2021 2.57 PM

#### Mental Health

There were 528 contacts to "1737 Need to talk?" on Thursday, 98 less than the contacts reported on Monday.  
Ministry of Health, 17 September 2021 1.19 PM

#### PPE

Current usage rate remains within low pandemic usage. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use.  
Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 12.21 PM

#### Health System

There are 14 hospitalised cases, 6 less than on Wednesday. 3 cases are in ICU, all of whom require ventilation.  
Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 1.19 PM.

### Health & Border

#### Maritime Border

There are 6 small craft inbound to Opuia. There are 2 small vessels in port at Opuia with crew isolating on board and 1 small vessel with 2 crew in MIQ. Cross agency planning for small vessel season will occur on 22 September 2021. 6 merchant vessels will arrive today, 3 will depart today and 35 are currently in ports.  
NZ Custos Service: 17 September 2021

#### Air Border – Testing and Arrivals

Auckland has 1 green zone flight arriving from the Cook islands, 19 red zone freight arrivals and 11 red zone freight departures expected today. Christchurch has two red flights arriving with 240 passengers. 100% of passengers requiring PDTs continue to be screened with no breaches noted. COVID-19 testing order requirements of staff are being met and adequate staffing levels are being maintained.  
NZ Customs Service: 17 September 2021 1.43 PM

### Compliance

#### Non-Compliance

In Auckland, 1 person was prosecuted yesterday for a COVID-19 related offence, the same number as the previous day. Two people were warned on Monday. No data related to warnings has been provided since this date. There were 25 infringements issued yesterday for COVID-19 related breaches, a drop from 83 the previous day.  
New Zealand Police: 17 September 2021 6.33 AM. Information as of 16 September 5.00 PM.

### Compliance

#### Online Breach Notifications

There were 79 compliance breaches reported to Police online yesterday, almost half the 154 reported the previous day. Of the breaches, 53% (42) related to gatherings, 38% (30) related to businesses, and 9% (7) related to individuals. The rate of reports continues to fall steadily and is only 5.8% of its peak on August 22.  
New Zealand Police: 17 September 2021 6.33 AM. Information as of 16 September 5.00 PM.

#### Travel Compliance

Approximately 15,824 vehicles were recorded going through checkpoints in the 24 hours to 11.59 PM, 16 September 2021. 119 vehicles (0.75%) were turned around for not having permission to travel.  
New Zealand Police: 17 September 2021 11.43 AM

#### Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media sentiment on Wednesday highlighted conversation around the topic of Financial Stability, with people and businesses sharing resources and guiding people to where support can be found. A few people were discussing how the current support measures are not covering all different family set-ups. There was mixed sentiment from those receiving wage subsidy payments, with some finding the process straightforward and swift, and others frustrated at delays. Most online conversation continues to focus on #NZPOL decisions (42% negative and 47% neutral sentiment), the virus (44% negative and 48% neutral), the vaccine rollout (45% negative and 41% neutral), and alert level timeframes (35% negative and 52% neutral). Sentiment remained stable across most categories.  
DPMC, 15 September 2021 5.00 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

17 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### AOG Coordination

#### Communications

The focus for Communications includes updated messaging on Auckland boundary testing, addressing AL2 questions from the public, and preparing topics in advance of any move between alert levels next week.

DPMC: 15 September 2021 3.50 PM

#### Policy

DPMC are preparing a Cabinet paper for the alert level review on Monday, September 20; and a Cabinet paper exploring options for requiring all non-New Zealanders arriving from 1 November to be vaccinated.

Joint advice on the domestic use of vaccine certification is underway with the Ministry of Health. Policy is also working through issues identified in the current Public Health Order.

DPMC: 17 September 2021 10.44 AM

### Regional Coordination

#### Fire and Emergency Resourcing

56 Fire and Emergency personnel are isolating after visiting locations of interest (no change from yesterday).

Personnel availability constraints are concentrated in the AL4 region, with 85% of staff available compared to 95-100% elsewhere.

Fire and Emergency NZ: 17 September 2021 3.49 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Traffic

In Auckland, traffic is at 31% of baseline levels (compared to the same week in 2019). Auckland had a 1% increase in light vehicle traffic and a 2% decrease in heavy vehicle traffic compared to the previous week.

Outside of Auckland, traffic remains below baseline levels in Christchurch (67% vs. the same week in 2019), Wellington (88%), Hamilton (91%) and Dunedin (98%). In each city, light vehicle traffic increased compared to the previous week, by 1% to 10%. Heavy vehicle traffic increased by 1% to 5%, except for Wellington and Hamilton, which decreased by 2.3% and 0.9% respectively.

Waka Kotahi, 17 September 2021 9.56 AM

#### Transport

As at 16 September, Auckland public transport patronage under AL4 was 5.2% of the same week in 2019 and down 12% from the previous week in AL4.

Under AL2, bus patronage continues to increase. Wellington's is 63% compared to the same week in 2019, and up 34% from the previous week in AL2. Christchurch bus patronage stands at 66% of the same week in 2019, increasing 15% from the previous week.

Waka Kotahi: 17 September 2021 8.55 AM, Ministry of Transport: 15 September 2021 3.03 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Travel Exemption Requests

MPI has received 549 requests for a boundary exemption. 144 requests were approved, 120 declined, and the remainder either withdrawn, revoked, or are awaiting further information.

Ministry of Primary Industries: 17 September 2021 4.11PM

#### Ministry of Health - Travel Exemptions

As at 8 AM on 17 September, the Ministry of Health has received a total of 4,787 requests for a travel exemption. Of these, 4,527 have been completed, with 213 approved; 3,572 declined; and 739 closed, referred to MBIE, permitted under the Order, or declined multiple times.

Of the 4,527 exemption requests considered within the Ministry of Health's mandate, 4.7% were approved.

Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 8.53 AM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Corrections

Two people in Corrections care are considered close contacts of a growing COVID-19 cluster in the Auckland community (one at Auckland Regional Corrections Facility and one at Mt Eden Corrections Facility). Both returned a negative day 0 test and were tested on Thursday for their day 3 test, and are awaiting results.

19 members of Corrections staff are currently awaiting COVID-19 test results, with no reported disruptions to operations.

Department of Corrections, 16 September 2021 3.00 PM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Supermarket Resourcing

Countdown has approximately 500 staff not working as a result of COVID-19 risks, up by 100 since September 15.

One Countdown store remains closed. Foodstuffs North Island has 32 staff self-isolating, up 30 from 15 September.

High demand for products and some purchase limits have been placed on some goods to maintain supply.

MBIE: 17 September 2021 2.52 PM

#### Infrastructure Resourcing

In the water sector, Watercare have 6 staff self-isolating (four less than 15 September).

There are 24 staff self-isolating across the fuel sector (no change from 15 September), and four staff self-isolating in the gas sectors (down one from 15 September).

There are no staff self-isolating in the electricity sector.

Three staff are isolating in the waste sector.

MBIE: 17 September 2021 2.52 PM

#### Digital Infrastructure – Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attack

The Government Chief Digital Officer sent advice on 15 September following the recent DDoS attacks to Government agencies asking they check with their providers around their resilience to withstand attacks. Short intermittent disruptions are expected to continue and CERT is the incident lead agency.

Department of Internal Affairs: 17 September 12.00 PM

#### Telecommunications, Energy, Water, Waste

No issues reported.

MBIE: 17 September 2021 2.25 PM



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

17 September 2021

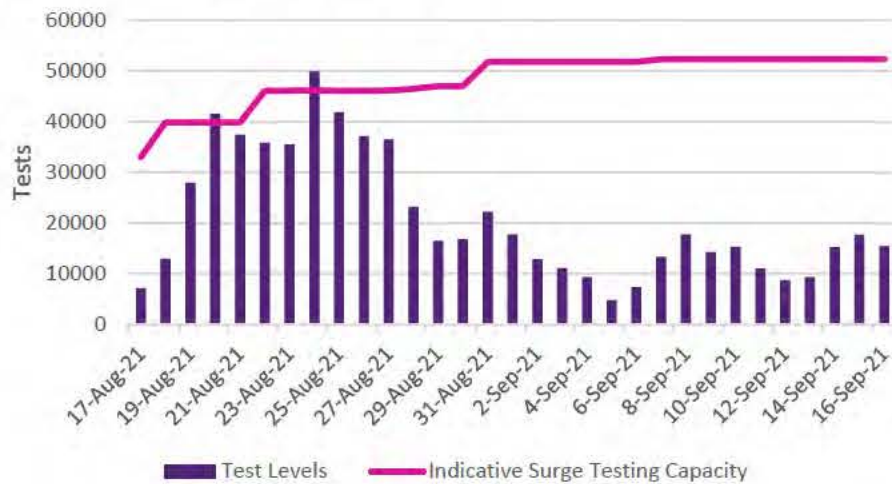
## The Bigger Picture

### Indications of Public Sentiment

#### Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing rates peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Since then, testing rates have varied between 7,255 and 17,684. Testing hesitancy may be one reason rates are low.  
Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021 9:52 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



#### Themes of Calls to Healthline and 1737 Need to Talk?

There has been an increase in calls from people in the suburbs of interest, seeking information on where they can get a test. Distress related to regional boundaries continues to be a theme. The distribution of mental health and addiction contacts has changed recently with a greater proportion coming from callers in AL4 areas, with common themes including lockdown anxiety, isolation, and uncertainty around work, and school and relationship issues.

Ministry of Health, 17 September 2021 1:19 PM

COVID-19 Calls to Healthline

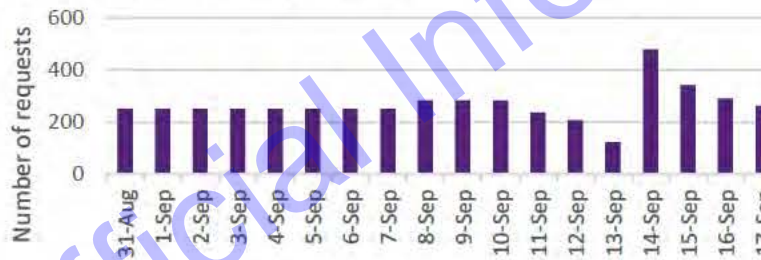


#### Health, MBIE, and MPI Boundary Exemptions

In the week ending 17 September, Health received an average of 277 requests each day for exemptions to cross the AL4 boundary. Requests peaked on 14 September at 480. Health are approving around 5% of these requests directly and refer some requests to MBIE and MPI. MBIE approves roughly 10% of requests, while MPI has an approval rate of approximately 30%.

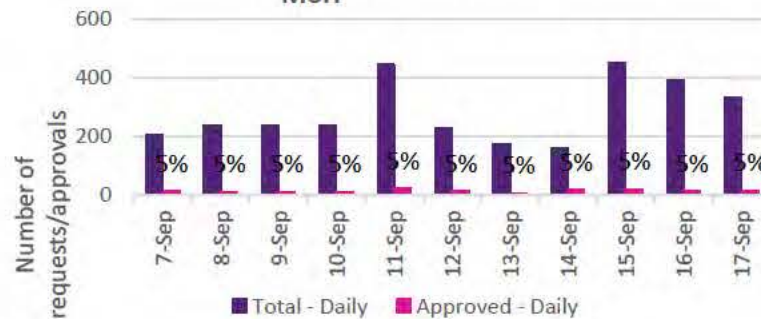
Ministry of Health, 17 September 2021 8:53 AM

Approximate Daily Volume of Requests to MOH for Boundary Travel Exemptions to Leave AL4 Areas



Note: the data for Aug 31-7 Sept and 8-10 Sept represent daily averages for those periods, as daily data was unavailable.

Daily Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MoH



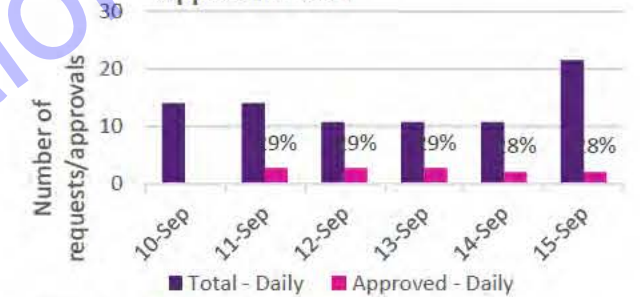
Daily Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MBIE, others



Note: the data for the total requests on 13 September was unavailable.

#### Health, MBIE, and MPI Boundary Exemptions

Daily Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MPI



#### Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 0.75% of vehicles were turned back on September 16. This is the lowest proportion since September 8, and less than a third of that over the weekend. This is despite significantly higher volumes of vehicles.

New Zealand Police, 17 September 11:43 AM

Police are investigating a number of incidents relating to individuals travelling out of Auckland, with some exploiting their essential worker status in order to circumvent checkpoints. There have also been reports of people trying to breach checkpoints by renting small trucks to use the truck lanes, as well as walking around checkpoints at night or using train tracks and waterways, to avoid being stopped. Police will continue to monitor the situation.

New Zealand Police, 16 September 3:00 PM

#### Mandatory Testing for Border Travel

As of 11:59 PM on 16 September, permitted workers crossing through AL4 checkpoints need to show proof of having had a COVID-19 test. To manage traffic flows, not all vehicles will be stopped, however travellers are required to carry this information and produce it when requested by an enforcement officer. There will likely be a transition period, which may cause frustration directed at checkpoint staff from members of the public.

New Zealand Police, 16 September 3:00 PM

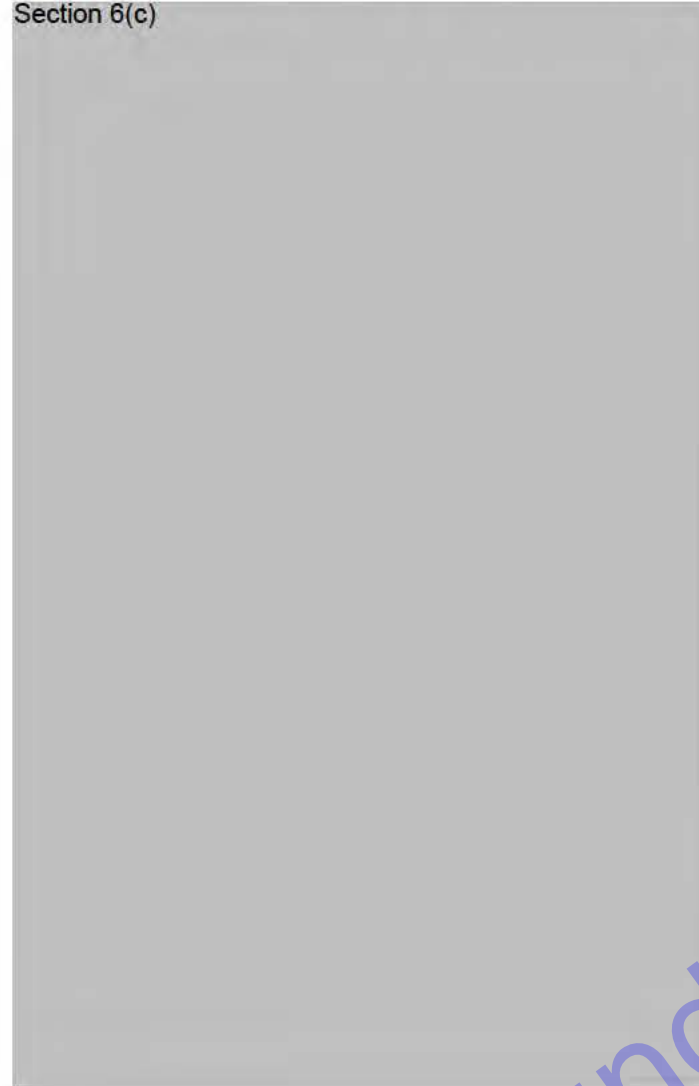
# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

17 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Indications of Public Sentiment

Section 6(c)



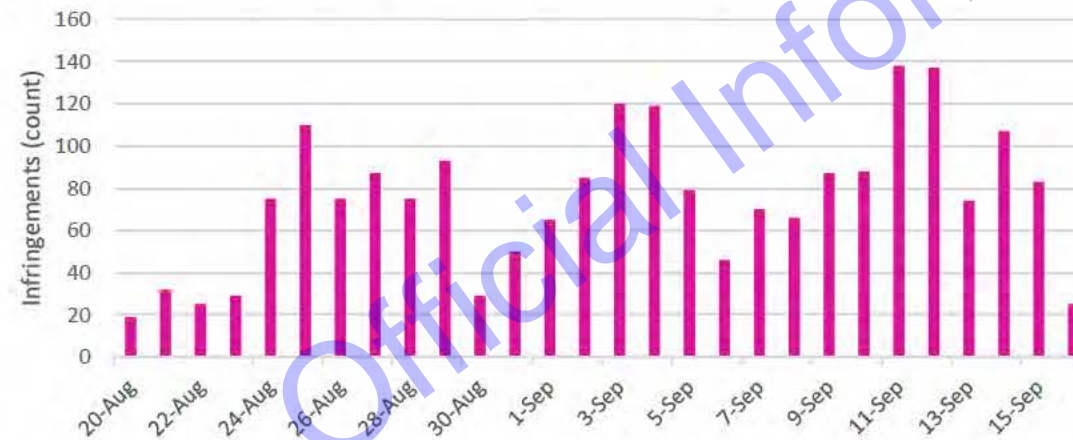
#### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings

Compliance with AL4 rules is generally high. Trends reveal that non-compliance tends to spike over the weekends, subsequently declining throughout the week. Reporting of Alert Level 4 breaches largely related to people organising and/or participating in large gatherings.

New Zealand Police: 17 September 2021 6.33 AM. Information as of 16 September 5.00 PM

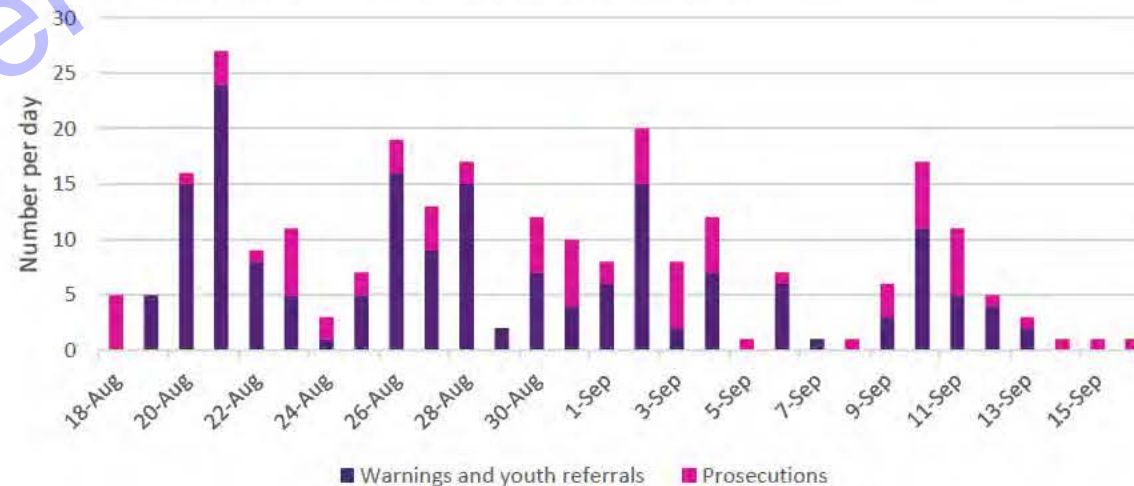
Note: As of 9 September, Police no longer report infringements outside AL4.

#### Total Infringements under AL3 and AL4 - Auckland Only



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

#### Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland Only



#### Confusion re Differing Isolation and Quarantine Requirements

Some members of the public are expressing that it is confusing that the time required for people to spend in MIQ after testing positive for COVID-19 differs from the time a person is required to be in MIQ on return to New Zealand. This followed media reports of the release of a person who had tested positive for COVID-19 after 10 days in MIQ. The duration of MIQ upon return to NZ is 14 days and isolation after testing positive is 10 days after symptom onset if there have been no symptoms for the past 72 hours.

Newshub: 16 September 2021, DPMC: 30 August; 15 September

#### Frustration Regarding Silver Ferns Travel Exemption Under AL4

A decision to grant the Auckland-based Silver Ferns a travel exemption to play in Christchurch next week has been met with public outrage. People are questioning why sport should get special dispensation over other people and businesses, especially when others are unable to leave Auckland to attend a family funeral, or even travel to hospital under AL4 with their loved ones.

Newshub, 17 September 2021 8:00 AM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

17 September 2021



## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

#### Food Security and Distribution in Pacific Communities

Food security and distribution continues to be a key issue for Pacific communities. MPP and MSD are working to better identify where need is greatest, align their efforts, and ensure food demand is being met. MPP is assessing 176 food security follow ups and will escalate to MSD as required.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 16 September 2021 5.00 PM

#### Food Access for Older People

NEMA and Auckland Council are working with MSD around the funding of food parcels with concerns around access to food for older people.

Caring for Communities, 17 September 2021 11.09 AM NEMA, 17 September 2021 2.34

#### Food Access at Ethnic Food Distribution Centres

Food parcel demand is also high at ethnic food distribution centres with one running out of food for two days due to the demand.

Caring for Communities, 17 September 2021 11.09 AM NEMA, 17 September 2021 2.34

#### Food Access in Apartments

NEMA have received concerns about food delivery for apartments and have raised this with MoH.

Caring for Communities, 17 September 2021 11.09 AM NEMA, 17 September 2021 2.34

#### Access to Education for Pacific Peoples

School principals have raised concerns about 'COVID fatigue' and the expected impacts on NCEA exams, particularly among the most disadvantaged students. Pacific leaders suggest that this is exacerbated by inequalities of access to educational resources and devices.

MPP are arranging an education focused zoom fono with MoE to establish a way to escalate issues.

Outside of Auckland, 73% of Pacific students went back to school at Level 2.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 16 September 2021 4.54 PM

#### Peer-Pressure Regarding Masks in Schools

There are some concerns that peer pressure in schools not to wear masks is taking precedence over recommended guidelines to wear a mask during class time at Level 2.

There has been a call from an epidemiologist for the Government to require mask wearing in schools, but some Principals have indicated that would be difficult to enforce.

RNZ, 17 September 2021 10.28am

#### Mixed Response to School Holiday Decision

There has been a mixed response to the decision to leave school holiday dates unchanged. Some Principals welcomed the decision as it gives teachers and students certainty, whereas some parents are frustrated because they will need to continue to balance work and home schooling. Some parents also indicated concern that students will miss more classroom learning.

Stuff, 17 September, 1.09 PM

#### Education – The Digital Divide

The digital divide continues to be an issue for Māori in Auckland, this includes access to bandwidth, appropriate data caps and access to devices.

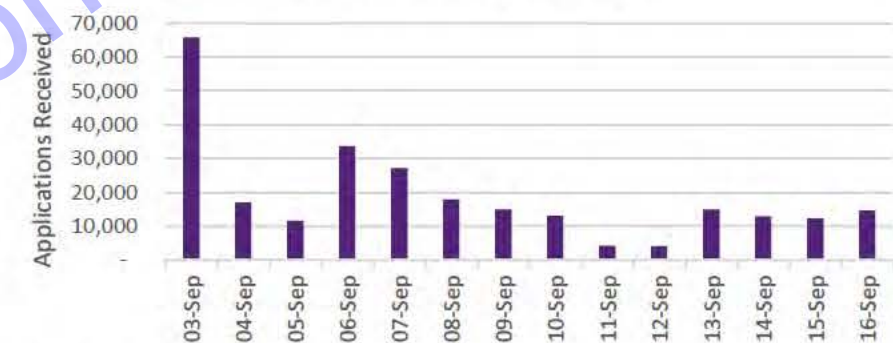
Te Puni Kōkiri, 16 September, 3.43

#### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

14,621 applications for the August 2021 Wage Subsidy #2 were received on 16 September, an increase of 2,327 (19%) from the previous day, and a decrease of 247 (2%) from the same day last week. Overall, applications have continued to trend downwards since WS #2 opened on 3 September.

Ministry for Social Development, 17 September 2021 10.58 AM

#### Daily Applications for August 2021 Wage Subsidy #2



As at 16 September, \$2.098 billion has been paid in wage subsidies to support 1.198 million jobs, including employees of 293,591 businesses and 154,734 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development: 17 September 2021 9.27 AM

#### Public Transport – Free for Vaccination Appointments

Waka Kotahi are discussing the possibility of free public transport for people travelling to vaccination appointments to address the concern transport may be a barrier for some and will provide guidance on this as soon as possible.

Ministry of Transport: 15 September 2021 3.03 PM

#### Public Transport – “No Standing” Rule

The Ministry of Transport are continuing to work with the sector, Ministry of Health and All of Government representatives to support implementation of the “no standing rule” for public transport, especially to ensure accessibility is supported and staff are being kept safe.

Waka Kotahi has raised concerns about capacity with the restriction in place, after public servants have been encouraged to return to offices next week.

Ministry of Transport: 15 September 2021 3.03 PM



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

17 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Health & Border

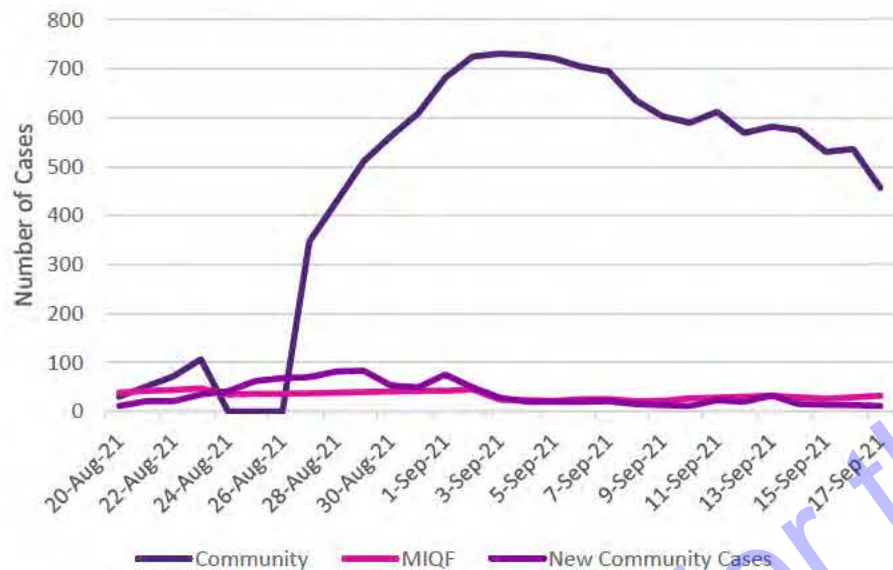
#### Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

The number of active COVID-19 community cases peaked at 731 on 3 September and has since declined, with brief and temporary increases on September 11 and 13.

The numbers of active COVID-19 cases identified in the community is now 457, a net reduction of 79 from yesterday. The number of active COVID-19 cases identified in MIQ facilities (border cases) increased slightly from 29 to 32 over the same period.

Ministry of Health, 17 September 2021 1.19 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



#### Anxiety and Depression Afflicting 1 in 7 New Zealanders

From 8-14 September, 13% of New Zealanders reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety or depression.

This is similar to previous AL4 reporting during 19-31 August (15%), but double that of the week ending 2 August 2020 during AL1 (7%).

Ministry of Health: 17 September 2021

#### Pasifika Concerns About Deportation

Pasifika community leaders and epidemiologists are advocating for an amnesty on Pasifika overstayer deportations to allay stress and anxiety. Deportations continued last year, and this added to concerns.

Ministry of Pacific Peoples: 16 September 2021, 5.00 PM

#### Managed Isolation and Quarantine Occupancy

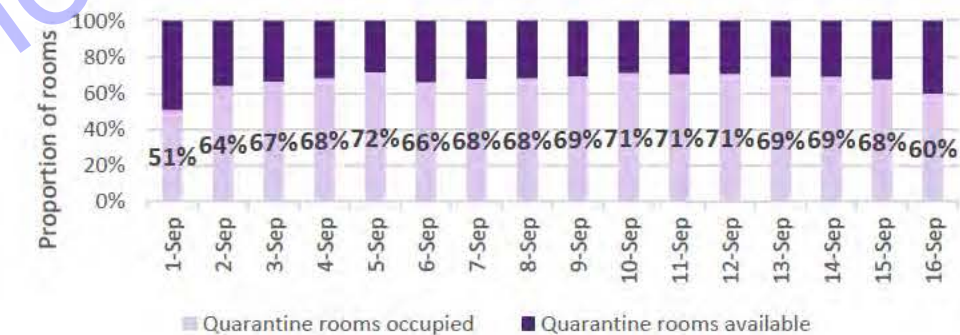
Occupancy of managed isolation rooms has fluctuated between 76% and 98% since 1 September, though space has been tighter recently, with over 90% occupancy since 10 September. Occupancy in quarantine rooms has mostly hovered between 64% and 72%, but has fallen to 60% today.

MBIE: 15 September 2021 2.57 PM

#### Managed Isolation Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



#### Quarantine Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



#### Vaccination Rates by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates among Māori (23.8%) and Pacifica (32.7%) are behind those of Asian (42.6%) and European (38.7%) populations, although these have increased by 1-2% across all ethnicities. This may be more reflective of access and age demographics than differences in vaccine sentiment. The median ages for Māori and Pacifica are 25 and 23 respectively, significantly lower than those among Asian (31) and European (41) groups.

Ministry of Health, 16 September 2021 11.59 PM

#### Vaccine Sentiment Encouraging

Despite scattered protests and isolated incidents of non-compliance, the vast majority of New Zealanders are supportive of the vaccination drive. The latest vaccine hesitancy research highlights that 79% of Kiwis are actively in favour of being vaccinated, 7% are hesitant and could be convinced, 14% say they're unlikely to get vaccinated, and only 7.4% completely opposed.

NewsHub, 16 September 2021

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

17 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="mailto:alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz">alertlevel4.generalenquiries@health.govt.nz</a>

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

21 September 2021

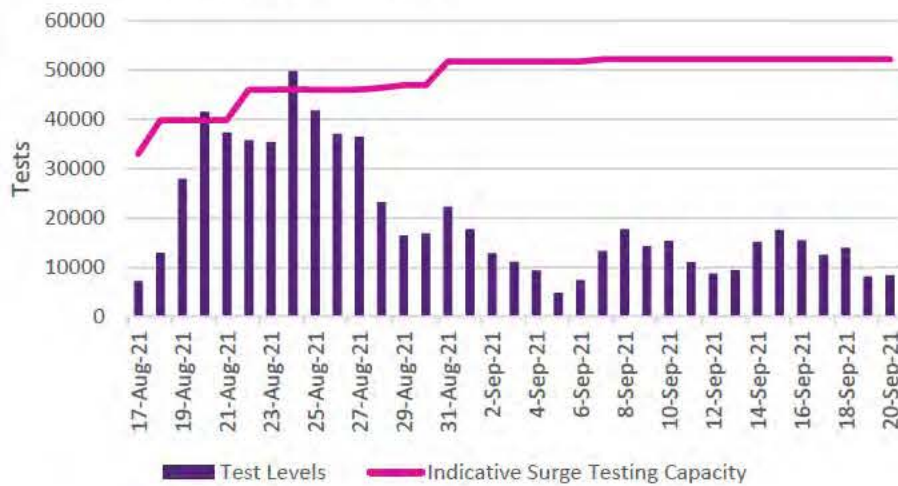
## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

#### Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing rates peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Since then, testing rates have varied between 7,255 and 17,684. Testing hesitancy may be one reason rates are low.  
Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 8.55 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered

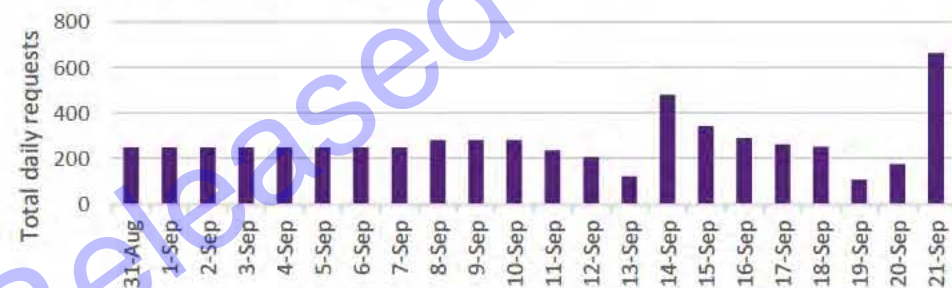


#### Health, MBIE, and MPI Boundary Exemptions

Over the past week, the Ministry of Health has received an average of 299 requests each day for exemptions to cross the Alert Level 4 boundary. After steadily declining, these requested spiked to 664 today. Health are approving 3.28% of these requests directly on average, and receives advice on some requests from MBIE and MPI. MBIE recommends for approval to the Ministry of Health roughly 15% of requests, while MPI has recommends for approval to the Ministry of Health approximately 20-25%.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 8.11 AM

Approximate Daily Volume of Requests to MOH for Boundary Travel Exemptions to Leave AL4 Areas



Note: the data for Aug 31-7 Sept and 8-10 Sept represent daily averages for those periods, as daily data was unavailable.

#### Themes of Calls to Healthline and 1737 Need to Talk?

In the 4 days leading up to Sunday 19 September, there were an estimated 1,500 – 2000 calls from people wanting to travel into the Auckland regional boundary to provide support for Aucklanders when level 3 comes into effect. Examples of support include nursing sick relatives, visiting terminally ill friends or family and providing family support. Many indicated they are prepared to make a one way crossing until Auckland moves to alert level 2. There was also an increase in calls on Sunday following the announcement of cases in Waikato. Calls relating to essential worker testing were also noted. Calls spiked again on Monday after the alert level announcement. Residents of the Upper Hauraki area reported being unable to access food and medical supplies. People asked whether Auckland will be brought down to alert level 2 if 90% vaccination levels are reached. The fact that Auckland's alert level wont be reviewed until the Tuesday after the start of school holidays was the biggest theme and cause of distress.

Ministry of Health, 20 September 2021 1.28 PM and 21 September 2021 1.16 AM

#### Concerns Face Mask Exemptions are Ignored

There are some concerns that valid exemptions to not wear a face mask issued by the Disabled Persons Assembly are being ignored. Some people report showing their exemption card in stores only to be denied entry and told to leave unless they wear a mask.

Stuff: 20 September 2021, 11:20 AM.

COVID-19 Calls to Healthline



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

21 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

#### Food Security and Distribution in Pacific Communities

Food security and distribution continues to be a concern for Pacific communities in the Auckland region. MPP, NEMA and MSD are working to better identify where need is greatest, align their efforts, and ensure food demand is being met. MPP have escalated 76 requests for food through the process with MSD.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 20 September 2021 4:57 PM

#### Access to Education for Pacific Peoples

Access to devices to learn at home during higher alert levels continues to be an issue for the Pacific Community in Auckland. MPP is meeting with MoE this week to address and identify education issues.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 20 September 2021 4:57 PM

#### Support for Recovered Cases Leaving MIQ

NGOs, Southsea Healthcare and the Samoan Assembly of God Church have been working alongside MSD and MoH to provide a wrap around support package for people when they leave MIQ. This package assists with housing, employment and mental health support.

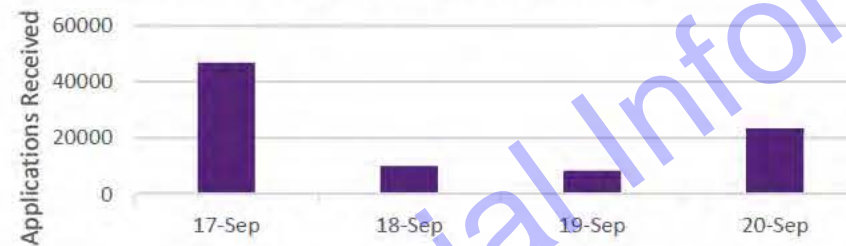
Caring for Communities: 20 September, 11.43.

#### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

The August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3 opened on 17 September and has received a total of 88,323 applications across four days so far. 23,400 applications were received on 20 September, 15,064 more than the previous day. Wage Subsidy #2 closed on 16 September after 14 days, receiving 264,284 applications in total.

Ministry for Social Development, 21 September 2021 11:33 AM

#### Daily Applications for August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3



As at 20 September, \$2.368 billion has been paid in August 2021 wage subsidies to support 1.221 million jobs, including employees of 300,543 businesses and 159,053 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development, 21 September 2021 10:40 AM

#### Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

As an indicator of spending, consumer spend (through Paymark EFTPOS) in the week ending 19 September was 16% less than the same week in 2019. This is the same level as last week.

Spending decreased in all major categories except Food & Liquor, which grew by 15% this week compared to 2019 (a 3% drop from last week). Home & Recreational Retailing spend decreased by 8% compared to 2019 (whereas last week it was 5% more compared to 2019).

MBIE, 19 September 2021 5:00PM

#### Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019 (as at 19 September 2021)



#### Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 0.92% of vehicles were turned back on September 20. This is less than half the proportion over the weekend (2%, 1.85), despite significantly higher numbers of vehicles.

New Zealand Police, 21 September 2:00 PM

Police continue to observe the misuse of essential worker forms, receiving generic letters that do not explicitly state that the holder is permitted to cross. This has raised concerns that letters are being copied and handed out amongst non-essential workers. Old exemption letters from 2020 have also been received. Police will be given clear advice on what constitutes a legitimate essential worker exemption document to ensure a consistent approach is implemented.

New Zealand Police, 21 September 2:00 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

21 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

### Social & Community

Section 6(c)

#### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

Compliance with Alert Level 4 rules is generally high. Trends reveal that non-compliance tends to increase over the weekends, subsequently declining throughout the week. Reporting of Alert Level 4 breaches largely related to people organising and/or participating in large gatherings. Warnings, prosecutions and infringements have all been declining over the past week. This implies high levels of public understanding and acceptance of the rules in place.

New Zealand Police: 21 September 2021 6.37 AM. Information as of 20 September 5.00 PM  
Note: As of 9 September, Police no longer report infringements outside AL4.

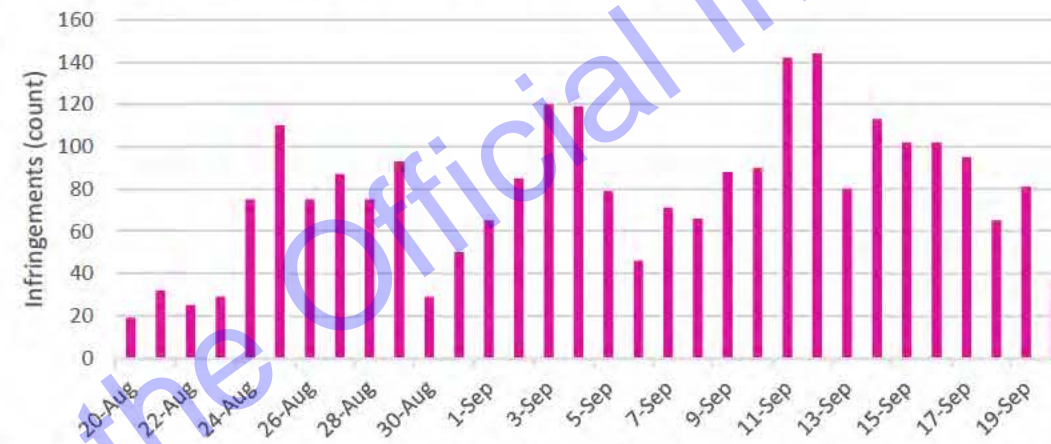
#### Judge Reserves Decision in Vaccine Court Case

A judge has reserved their decision in a case taken by a former Customs border worker challenging the Public Health order mandating vaccines. The former worker was dismissed from her role for refusing to receive the vaccine required for her role.  
Stuff: 17 September, 5.48 PM

#### Transport – Judicial Hearing for Non-Vaccinated Staff

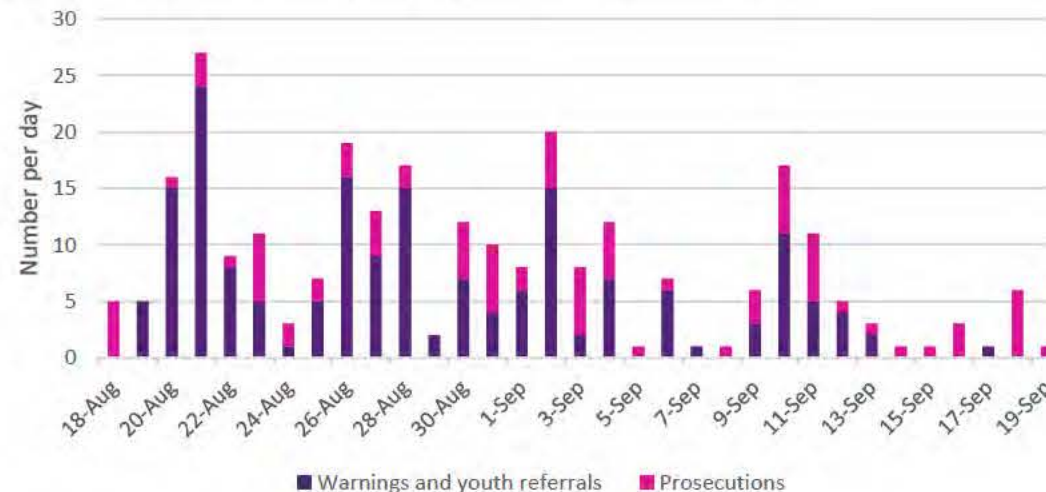
A judicial hearing between four remaining non-vaccinated Aviation Security Service (AVSEC) employees and the Crown, in relation to the Vaccinations Order, will take place on 25 September. Crown Law is connected with this work.  
Ministry of Transport, 20 September 2021 2.05 PM

Total Infringements under AL3 and AL4 - Auckland Only



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland Only



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

21 September 2021

## The Bigger Picture

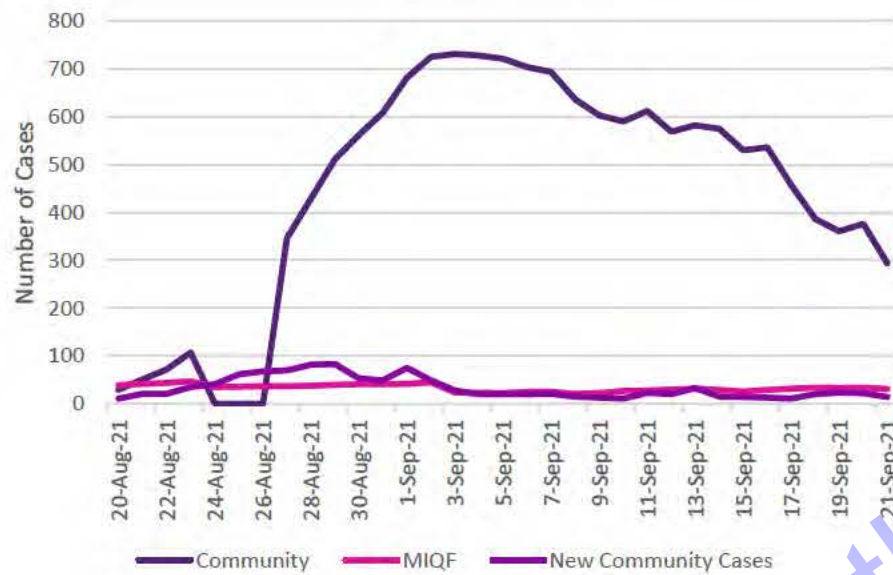
### Health & Border

#### Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

The number of active cases has reached its lowest point since before 27 August, after peaking at 731 on 3 September. The number of active cases first identified in MIQ was 31 today, down 3 on yesterday's total, and has remained within a range of 21 – 47 over the period of the recent outbreak.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



#### Vaccines and Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain significantly below rates for other ethnicities. The number of first doses administered to eligible Māori and Pacific Peoples are 515 per 1000 people and 665 per 1000 people, respectively. This compares to an average of 741 first doses per 1000 eligible people in the total population. This disparity in vaccination rates amongst different ethnicities is particularly large in the under 30 age group. The lower average age of the Māori and Pacifica populations compared to other ethnicities, may also explain some of these disparities as younger age groups have had less time to get vaccinated.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021

#### Extra Support for Ethnic Vaccination

Specific funding has been allocated to support vaccination efforts and communications for ethnic communities. \$1 million has been set aside for this, with each group able to apply for up to \$50,000.

Caring for Communities 20 September, 11.43 AM; Ministry of Health 17 September;

#### Pacific Community Vaccine Drive

MPP report specific vaccination drives in Auckland catered to different demographics of the pacific community. A drive for Cook Islanders and people from Niue is planned this week and a vaccine drive for Fiji is planned for Fijian language week.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 20 September 2021 4.57 PM

#### Negative Response to the New MIQ Lobby

Some New Zealanders overseas indicated they were frustrated with the new MIQ lobby system released for the first time on Monday. Demand outweighed supply and some had over 20,000 people ahead of them in the queue.

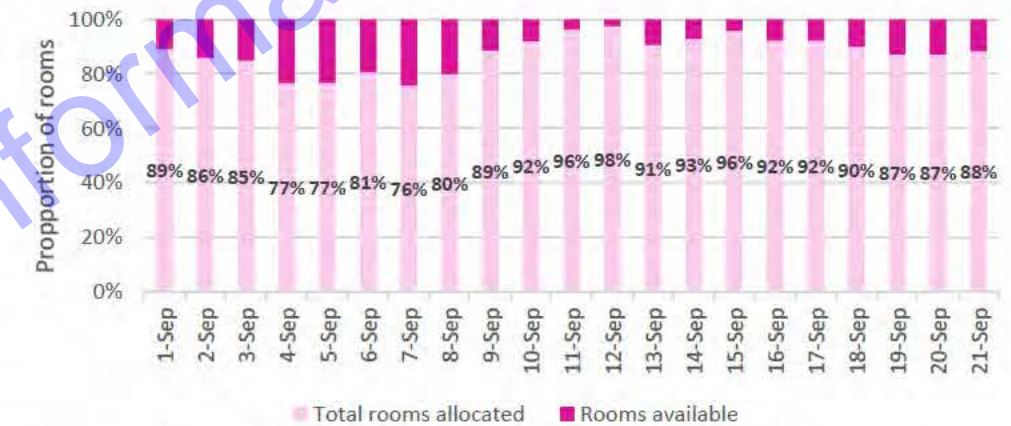
NZ Herald, 20 September, 4.00 PM.

#### Managed Isolation and Quarantine Occupancy

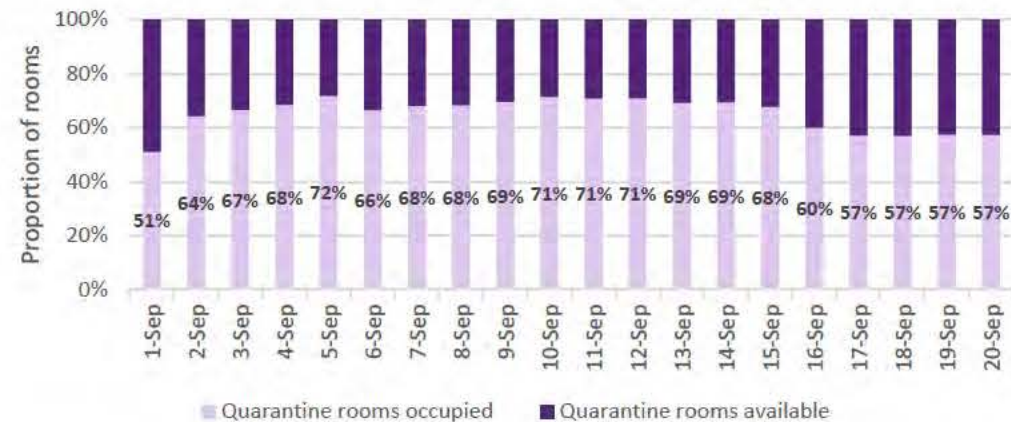
After peaking on September 12, pressure on managed isolation and quarantine facilities is easing.

MBIE: 21 September 2021 12.00 PM

Managed Isolation Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



Quarantine Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



#### Transport – Visas For Non-Cargo Ships

The shipping industry has advised the Ministry of Transport of difficulties in crewing some non-cargo ships legitimately in NZ, including ships permitted to carry out work under the Maritime Border Order, due to crew visas only being granted for cargo ships and not other ship types. This may put the NZ Marine industry's refit, repair and new construction work at risk. MoT have indicated that they will be raising this with Immigration.

Ministry of Transport, 20 September 2021 2.05 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

21 September 2021

## Daily Updates

### Health & Border

#### Community Cases

There are 1,085 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 14 new community cases were confirmed, all in Auckland. 1 earlier recorded case was reclassified as under investigation giving a net increase of 14.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

#### Contact Tracing

There are 234 close plus contacts currently under management. 208 (88%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 172 (86%) have returned an initial test, 3 were positive. 1,141 close contacts are currently under management 990 (86%) have been contacts advised to isolate and be tested. 985 (86%) have been tested, 1 was positive.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 1.16PM

#### Vaccination

There have been 3,118,082 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,644,597 people have been fully vaccinated. There are 1,445,471 future bookings. This indicates that a vast majority of the bookings are likely to relate to second doses, rather than additional coverage of the population.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 10.48 AM

#### Testing

There were 8,346 tests yesterday, 16% of surge testing capacity. This is an increase of 262 from the previous day, when 8,084 tests were conducted.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 8.55 AM

#### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Wairarapa. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is over 20 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has around 10 ICU beds and over 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

### Health & Border

#### COVID APP Usage

The NZ COVID Tracer app has 3,237,146 registered users as of 10AM today, increasing by 3,265 since yesterday. There were 1,766,692 scans between 12.00PM 20 September and 9.50AM 21 September.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 10.00 AM

#### Healthline

Healthline had 4,752 contacts on Monday. Of those contacts, 2,994 were calls to the COVID-19 Info Line, of which 76% were seeking information, and 18% were sent for testing.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

#### MIQ Capacity

There are 4,123 people in managed isolation. 3,488 managed isolation rooms are allocated (87% of operational capacity). Operational capacity includes some rooms not in use as they are undergoing cleaning or subject to cohorting. There are 275 people in quarantine facilities. 392 of 686 quarantine rooms are filled (57% of capacity).

MBIE, 21 September 2021 12.00 PM

#### Mental Health

There were 663 contacts to "1737 Need to talk?" on Monday, 131 more than the contacts reported on Sunday.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

#### PPE

The current usage rate is at low pandemic usage.

There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 2.35 PM

#### Health System

There are 15 hospitalised cases, 1 less than yesterday. 4 cases are in ICU, 3 require ventilation.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 1.16 PM.

### Health & Border

#### Maritime Border

The Hong Kong flagged bulk carrier *Portland Bay* had health pratique denied on 19 September as the vessel reported crew having flu like symptoms. The vessel is anchored off Port Tauranga while a health plan is being drafted. There are 17 crew.

There are 4 small craft inbound to Opuia.

There are 3 small vessels in port at Opuia.

5 merchant vessels will arrive today, 4 will depart today, and 39 are currently in ports.

NZ Customs Service: 21 September 2021 2.30 PM

#### Air Border – Testing and Arrivals

Auckland has 21 red zone and freight arrivals with 172 passengers in total; and 22 red zone and freight departures expected today with 85 passengers in total.

Christchurch has two red flights arriving with 134 passengers and four flights departing with no passengers listed.

100% of passengers requiring PDTs continue to be screened with no breaches noted.

COVID-19 testing order requirements of staff are being met and adequate staffing levels are being maintained.

NZ Customs Service: 21 September 2021 2.30 PM

### Compliance

#### Non-Compliance

In Auckland, six people were prosecuted on September 18 for a COVID-19 related offence. This is double the previous day for which reporting is available, September 16. One person was warned on Monday. No data related to warnings has been provided since then. There were 37 infringements issued yesterday for COVID-19 related breaches, a decrease from 81 on Sunday.

New Zealand Police: 21 September 2021 6.37 AM.

Information as of 20 September 5.00 PM.

### Compliance

#### Online Breach Notifications

There were 103 compliance breaches reported to Police online yesterday, almost half the 188 reported on Sunday. Of the breaches, 62% (64) related to gatherings, 31% (32) related to businesses, and 7% (7) related to individuals. This is the lowest number of online breach notifications since reporting began.

New Zealand Police: 21 September 2021 6.37 AM.

Information as of 20 September 5.00 PM.

#### Travel Compliance

Approximately 15,854 vehicles were recorded going through checkpoints in the 24 hours to 11.59 PM, 20 September 2021. 146 vehicles (0.92%) were turned around for not having permission to travel.

New Zealand Police: 21 September 2021 12.40 PM

#### Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media sentiment over the weekend highlighted conversation around case numbers and vaccinations, with some in Auckland feeling hopeful about an alert level change on Monday and others unsure due to case numbers rising. Some believe the South Island should move to AL1 due to having no community cases. There was also discussion around vaccine passports, including privacy/data concerns and wondering how these would be enforced.

Most online conversation continues to focus on the virus (50% negative and 41% neutral sentiment), NZ's COVID response (47% negative and 41% neutral), the vaccine rollout (53% negative and 33% neutral), and alert level timeframes (40% negative and 44% neutral). All categories increased slightly in negative sentiment on Sunday.

DPMC, 20 September 2021 7.43 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

21 September 2021



## Daily Updates

### AOG Coordination

#### Communications

The focus for Communications includes developing material for the AL3 and 2 change, testing in key suburbs, and a targeted campaign in Auckland around support available.

Questions raised by the public have mainly been regarding: AL3, food security, domestic travel and vaccine passports.

DPMC: 20 September 2021 8.57 AM

#### Policy

DPMC are progressing work following the Alert Level decision by Cabinet on Monday. Issues with the current Health Order and Level 2 settings are also being worked through.

DPMC: 20 September 2021 1.39 PM

### Regional Coordination

#### Fire and Emergency Resourcing

61 Fire and Emergency personnel are isolating after visiting locations of interest (up five from yesterday).

Personnel availability constraints are concentrated in the AL4 region, with 85% of staff available compared to 95-100% elsewhere. The Kaiaua Rural Fire Bridge in the North Waikato is currently out of service as all staff are in isolation and getting tested.

Fire and Emergency NZ: 21 September 2021 2.32 PM

### Travel & Transport

#### Traffic

In Auckland under AL4, traffic is at 32% of baseline levels (compared to the same week in 2019). Auckland had a 5% increase in light vehicle traffic and a 1% increase in heavy vehicle traffic compared to the previous week.

Outside of Auckland under AL2, traffic remains below baseline levels in Christchurch (66% vs. the same week in 2019), Wellington (91%), Hamilton (92%) and Dunedin (95%). In each city, light vehicle traffic increased by 0.3% to 10% compared to the previous week. Heavy vehicle traffic increased by 4% to 12%, except for Dunedin, where it decreased by 0.2%.

Waka Kotahi, 21 September 2021 9.48 AM

#### Transport

As at 20 September, Auckland public transport patronage (including buses, trains and ferries) under AL4 was 5.2% of the same week in 2019.

Under AL2, bus patronage remains steady. In Wellington, patronage is 66% compared to the same week in 2019, up 15% from the previous week in AL2. Christchurch bus patronage stands at 61% of the same week in 2019, increasing 13% from the previous week.

Waka Kotahi, 21 September 2021 11.47 AM

### Travel & Transport

#### Travel Exemption Requests

MPI has provided advice on 630 requests for a boundary exemption to date. They recommended that 129 requests be approved, 105 declined, and the remainder either withdrawn, revoked, or are awaiting further information.

Ministry of Primary Industries: 21 September 2021 3.55 PM

#### Ministry of Health - Travel Exemptions

As at 8 AM on 21 September, the Ministry of Health has received a total of 5,988 requests for a travel exemption. Of these, 5,220 have been completed, with 235 approved; 4,105 declined; and 880 closed, referred to MBIE, permitted under the Order, or declined multiple times.

Of the 5,132 exemption requests considered within the Ministry of Health's mandate, 4.6% were approved.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 8.11 AM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Corrections

There has been one confirmed case of COVID-19 among people in Corrections care. The individual was remanded at Mount Eden Corrections Facility on Friday night and returned a positive test result. The prisoner shared a cell with one person on Friday night who has also been moved to quarantine. A further six prisoners have been identified as potential close contacts and are being managed in line with quarantine protocols.

58 members of Corrections staff are currently awaiting COVID-19 test results, with no reported disruptions to operations.

Department of Corrections, 21 September 2021 3.00 PM

### Workplace & Infrastructure

#### Supermarket Resourcing

Countdown has approximately 500 staff not working as a result of COVID-19 risks, up by 100 since September 15.

One Countdown store remains closed. Foodstuffs North Island has 34 staff self-isolating, up 2 from 20 September.

Some purchase limits remain on goods to maintain supply.

MBIE: 20 September 2021 2.54 PM

#### Infrastructure Resourcing

In the water sector, Watercare have 27 staff self-isolating (six less than 15 September).

There are 24 staff self-isolating across the fuel sector (no change from 15 September), and three staff self-isolating in the gas sectors (down one from 15 September).

There are no staff self-isolating in the electricity sector.

Three staff are isolating in the waste sector, no change as of 17 September.

MBIE: 20 September 2021 2.54 PM

#### Digital Infrastructure – Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attack

Following the recent DDoS attacks the Government Chief Digital Officer asked Government agencies to check with their providers around their resilience to withstand attacks. While there are no current issues, short intermittent disruptions are expected to continue and the risk is ongoing.

Department of Internal Affairs: 21 September 2.50 PM

#### Telecommunications, Energy, Water, Waste

No issues reported.

MBIE: 20 September 2021 2.54 PM



## COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

21 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand</a>
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		<a href="mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz">COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz</a>

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

24 September 2021

## Health

### Community Cases

There are 1,131 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 9 new community cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.

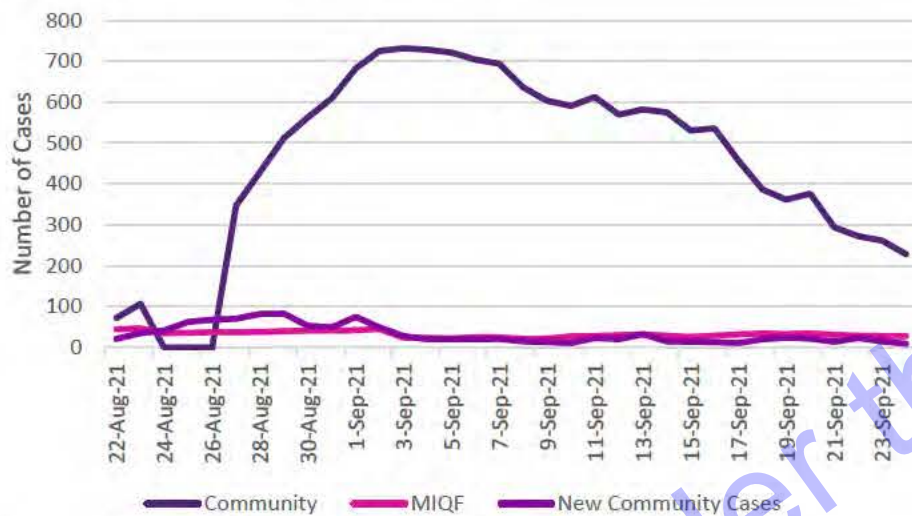
Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 1.07 PM

### Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

After peaking at 731 on 3 September, the number of active cases has reached its lowest level since at least August 26 (see the chart below). The number of active cases first identified in MIQ was 28 today, the lowest number since September 11. The number of new cases detected in the community stands at nine – the lowest daily total since the beginning of the outbreak.

Ministry of Health 24 September 2021 1.07 PM

### Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



### Contact Tracing

There are 191 close plus contacts currently under management. 176 (92%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 158 (82%) have returned an initial test, none were positive. 862 close contacts are currently under management 804 (93%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 795 (92%) have been tested, none were positive.

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 1.07PM

### PPE

The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

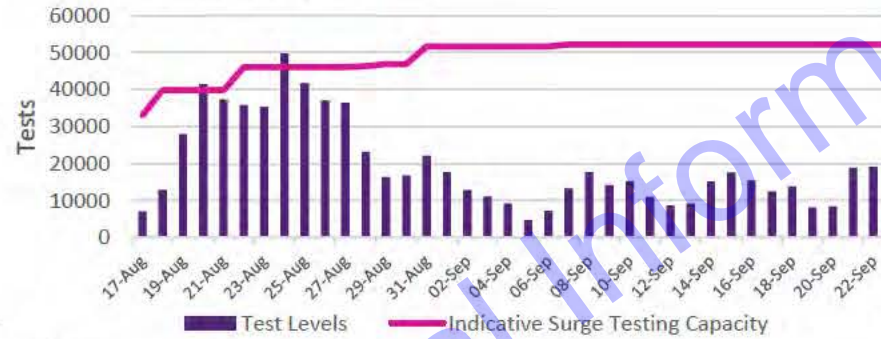
Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 3.29 PM

### Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing rates peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Since then, testing rates have varied between 7,255 and 19,124 (see the chart below). Testing hesitancy may be one reason rates are low.

Ministry of Health, 24 September 2021 8.58 AM

### Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Whanganui where all ICU capacity is being utilised for non-COVID cases. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is around 15 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just under 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health, 24 September 2021 1.07 PM

### Health System

There are 13 hospitalised cases, 2 less than yesterday. 3 cases are in ICU, and all 3 require ventilation.

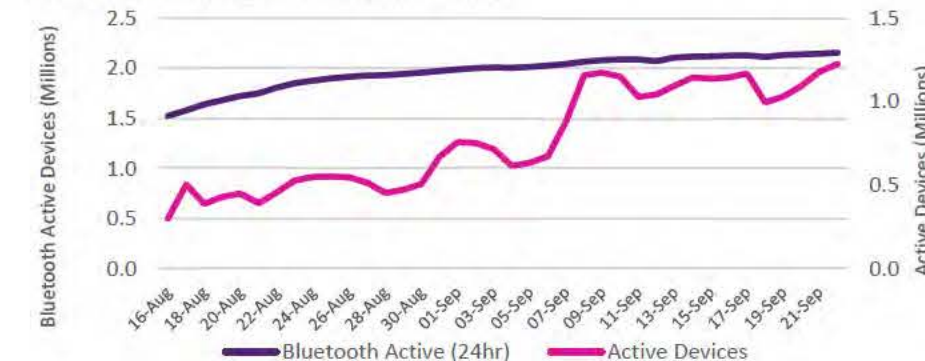
Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 1.07 PM.

### App Usage

In the 24 hours from 12PM 22 September to 12 PM 23 September, there were 1.225 million Active Devices using the Tracer App, and 2.152 million devices with Bluetooth active

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 10.00 AM.

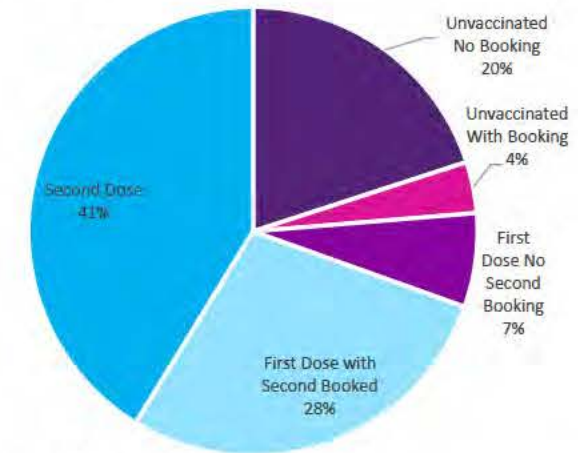
### Active Devices and Bluetooth Active Devices



### Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,192,380 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,725,151 people have been fully vaccinated. There are 1,346,952 future bookings. The chart below shows the total eligible population and whether they have been vaccinated or have a booking. Approximately 1.2 million of the future bookings are for second doses.

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 10.41 AM



### Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. However, Māori, and Pacific populations have a lower average age, which will contribute to the disparity.

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 10.41 AM



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

24 September 2021

## Social & Community

### Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

Recent call volumes to Healthline have reached their highest level since 1 September. The primary themes present in calls to Healthline relate to travel restrictions, boundary measures, and exemptions. Healthline is also registering growing public frustration and anxiety around entering and leaving Auckland, and regarding the persistence of AL3 restrictions for longer than expected. The new restrictions introduced in Waikato also formed the subject of a significant proportion of calls.

There are also increasing requests for information on the procedures for returning to work in AL3, while observing appropriate health and safety requirements. An emerging and growing sentiment concerns a perceived loss of 'empathy' and 'care' in the response, particularly in relation to the implementation of restrictions, fines for non-compliance, and messaging.

Ministry of Health, 24 September 2021 1.07 PM

### Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media sentiment this week highlighted conversation around the vaccine rollout, with some New Zealanders sharing positive experiences of receiving the vaccine on social media to encourage others, prompted by the Prime Minister's 'I'm getting vaccinated too...' post. A few people were discussing misinformation, including some asking for advice on how to talk to people who believe misinformation about the vaccine, and others actively attempting to disprove misinformation online.

On Wednesday, following Auckland's move to AL3, some people were expressing frustration at businesses and customers not following mask wearing or social distancing rules, and debating the possibility of businesses adopting a vaccine mandate for customers and employees.

Most online conversation continues to focus on NZ's COVID response (42% negative and 48% neutral sentiment), the virus (45% negative and 47% neutral), the vaccine rollout (48% negative and 39% neutral), and enforcement (39% negative and 52% neutral). All categories decreased in negative sentiment on Wednesday, with the majority increasing in neutral sentiment.

DPMC, 23 September 2021 4.58 PM

**Transport – Deadline for Vaccinated Workers Approaching**  
MoT reports that stevedore companies have been reminded of the 30 September deadline for all workers to be vaccinated. MoT notes one company has 30-40 workers who will be stood down and will need to pass on their work.

Ministry of Transport, 24 September 2021 2.11 PM

### Food Security and Distribution in Pacific Communities

Food security and distribution continues to be a concern for Pacific communities in the Auckland region. While MPP reports there is positive feedback coming from some groups, families and smaller community groups in Auckland report long waiting times or not receiving support. This is because the Ministry of Social Development in conjunction with the New Zealand Food Network does not fund all foodbanks and so smaller entities may not have stock to meet demand. MPP have escalated 76 requests for food through the process with MSD. However, recent developments are geared to adjust the distribution system by improving coordination between provider and supplier.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 24 September 2021 8.43 PM

Ministry of Social Development: 22 September 2021 1.41 PM

DPMC 24 September 2021

### Vaccine Efforts in the Pacific Community

MPP report the need for more mobile vaccination centres, and continued tailored communications to Pacific Communities about vaccination and its importance to increase COVID-19 vaccination.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 24 September 2021 8.43 AM

### High Demand for Mental Health Crisis Support

The Ministry of Health report high demand for mental health crisis support among the three Auckland DHBs. Mental health inpatients are also high across the country, but especially in Auckland at this time.

Caring For Communities: 23 September. 3.55 PM

### Wellbeing Campaign Planned for Auckland

The Ministry of Health, with the Mental Health Foundation, are planning a mental health and wellbeing campaign in Auckland over the next 6-8 weeks. This is in response to high reports of distress for Aucklanders over this time.

Caring For Communities: 23 September. 3.55 PM

### MIQ Capacity

There are currently 3,340 people in managed isolation, with 90% of rooms allocated as a proportion of operational capacity. Operational capacity includes some rooms not in use as they are undergoing cleaning or subject to cohorting. There are 236 people in quarantine facilities. 348 of 658 quarantine rooms are filled, which is 53% of capacity.

MBIE, 23 September 2021 12.43 PM

### COVID-19 Within Gangs

Media coverage is expected over the weekend regarding the composition of the community cases in quarantine facilities and the transmission of COVID-19 within gangs.

MBIE, 24 September 2021 2.20 PM

### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

The August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3 opened on 17 September and has received a total of 130,637 applications in the first week, an average of 18,660 per day. As at 23 September, \$2.541 billion has been paid in August 2021 Wage Subsidies to support 1.233 million jobs, including employees of 306,659 businesses and 163,303 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development, 24 September 2021 10.00 AM

### Increase of Māori on Jobseeker Benefits

In August, there was a 3.2% (up 1,500 people) increase from July in the number of Māori receiving jobseeker support. This increase occurred during August, the month the country moved into AL4.

Te Puni Kōkiri: Tuesday 21 September 2021 4.40 PM

### Increased Need for Special Needs Grants

MSD report Special Needs Grants given to Māori for food increased 38.3% in August compared to July. This indicates an increased need for food and may be related to an increased demand over AL4.

Te Puni Kōkiri: Tuesday 21 September 2021 4.40 PM

### Air & Maritime Border

An all of government meeting is being held today regarding the *Vanuatu Chief* container ship, due into Auckland on 25 September with 24 crew on board. Following a stop in Suva, two crew tested positive for COVID-19. The crew arriving into New Zealand are currently showing no signs of infection.

NZ Customs Service: 24 September 2021 2.28 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

24 September 2021

## Social & Community

Section 6(c)

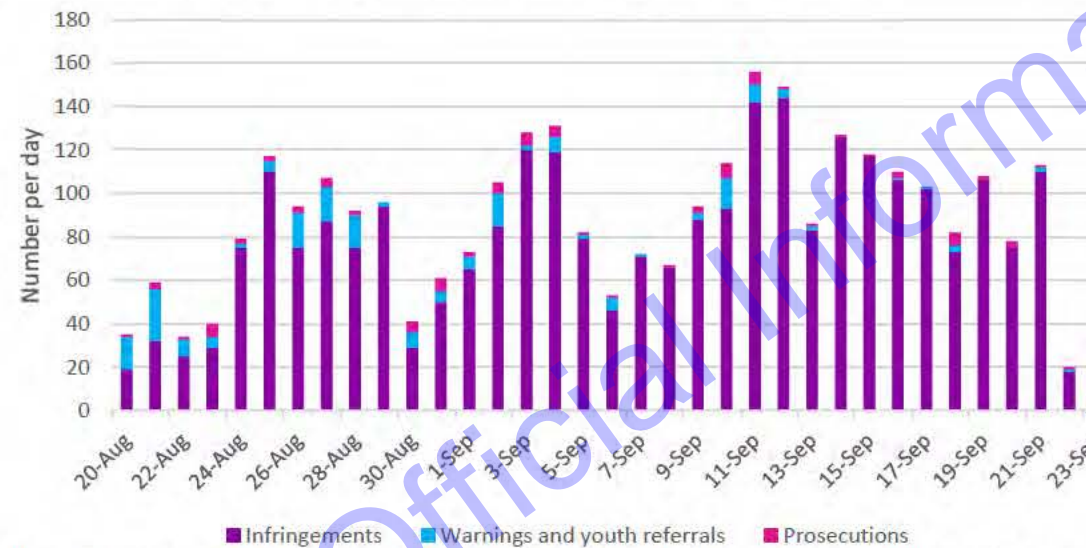
### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements has reduced dramatically since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3. Daily prosecutions and warnings have remained stable at a very low base of 1-6 since September 11.

New Zealand Police: 24 September 2021 6.37 AM. Information as of 23 September 5.00 PM

Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

### Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



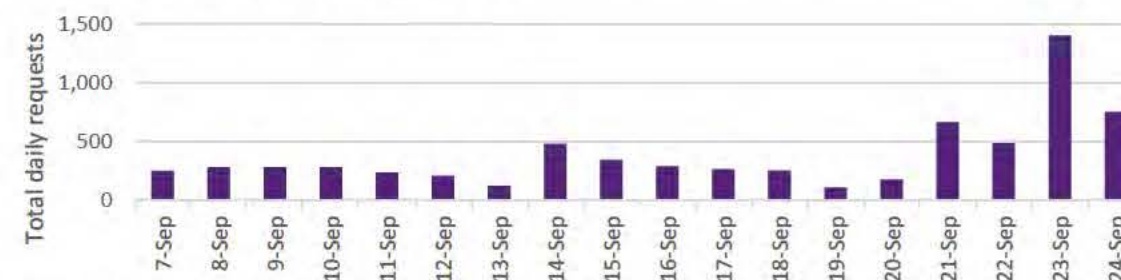
Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

### Boundary Exemptions

Over the past week, the Ministry of Health has received an average of 548 daily requests for exemptions to cross the AL4/AL3 boundary. These requests have increased markedly following the transition to AL3, from a prior average of 299. Average approvals have also risen sharply from 3.28% previously to 12-19% over the past two days. This reflects changes in approaches to those crossing the boundary for funerals and tangi, relocations, and returning to home or school. MOH receives advice on some requests from MBIE and MPI.

Ministry of Health, 24 September 2021 8.19 AM

### Approximate Daily Volume of Requests to MOH for Boundary Travel Exemptions to Leave AL4 and AL3 Areas



Note: the data for Aug 31-7 Sept and 8-10 Sept represent daily averages for those periods, as daily data was unavailable.

### Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 2.09% of vehicles were turned back on September 23. The average rate of turn arounds for the last five days has been 1.57% for vehicles and 4.34% for heavy vehicles.

New Zealand Police, 24 September 12.21 PM

Police continue to observe the misuse of essential worker forms and attempts to evade checkpoints continue to be observed.

New Zealand Police, 21 September 10.00 AM

### Misunderstanding Regarding Boundary

There appears to be some confusion regarding the AL3 boundary, with some people crossing the AL3 boundary out of Auckland to start a new job or move house. While this is allowed for within Auckland, it is currently not allowable across the AL3 boundary.

1 News: 23 September 6.00 PM.

DPMC 23 September 2021

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

24 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand</a>

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

## Key Issues and Risks

### Vaccination Hesitancy – Vaccination Bookings Declining

The number of bookings for vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are 1,216,002 future bookings. A slow-down in vaccinations could have an impact on future reopening strategies, with 20% of the eligible population still to be either vaccinated or to have booked a vaccine. Vaccination levels amongst some specific communities remain below average. Vaccination levels in Māori and Pacific communities are 55% and 71% respectively for the first dose, compared to 77% across the total population. Based on the Health Service Utilisation data from the Ministry of Health, the uptake for African communities was comparatively lower than other ethnic groups. MEC has also been notified that there is particular hesitancy amongst the Congolese community due to safety concerns and misinformation, while uptake in the Rwandan community is also low.

Ministry of Health : 28 September 2021 2.21 PM; Ministry for Ethnic Communities, 28 September 2021 2.24 PM; Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021, 10.53 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: There are ongoing communications to encourage COVID-19 vaccination uptake. There will be an upcoming Zoom hui with the African community on the COVID-19 vaccination on Wednesday 29 September – this will provide an opportunity for MEC to hear from the African community about what further support they may need. MEC is also working with community leaders to encourage uptake amongst these communities.

### Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Despite the relatively small number of COVID-19 cases requiring hospitalisation, there is a possibility if there are more community cases that demand will outweigh health capacity, with several regions during the current outbreak having had all ICU beds in use for non-COVID-19 cases. Recent modelling suggests if vaccinations do not exceed 90% (see '*Booking Levels for Vaccinations Declining*' section), hospitalisations could be in the tens of thousands with 7,000 deaths in one year assuming no restrictions are in place. ICU specialists have noted that hospitals would struggle to cope with the current level of beds and staff.

Ministry of Health, 26 September 2021 11.31 AM; <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/300414293/covid19-icu-staff-plead-for-kiwis-to-be-vaccinated-amid-bed-nurse-shortage>, 27 September 2021, 1.48 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: A system assessment is underway to identify next steps and mitigations.

### MIQ Capacity Limited

There are currently 3,659 rooms occupied in managed isolation, and 282 in quarantine facilities. This represents 91% and 46% of current operational capacity, respectively.

MBIE, 28 September 2021 11.29 AM and 5.15 PM; Guardian, 21 September 2021, 00.55

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Work is underway to identify future options. If there are more community cases the system would need to flex again, noting that there are MIQ facilities in only some locations.

### Anti-Vaccine and Anti-Compliance Activism Occurring

Anti-government messaging online in relation to anti-vaccination and COVID-19 compliance themes continues. Online anti-vaccination themes have included threats to public figures and officials, prominent religious figures encouraging unlawful behaviour, and anti-vaccine groups using anti-lockdown and anti-vaccine messaging to highlight their cause. Incidents of direct action related to COVID-19 have reduced in number since the beginning of the current lockdown measures, though there was a recent incident of arson directed towards a vaccination site.

New Zealand Police, 24 September 2021, 10.00 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Police continue to engage with communities and applying de-escalation measures at protests, as well as monitoring the situation.

### COVID-19 Related Racism Occurring

The identification of one of the COVID-19 clusters in Auckland as being linked to a Samoan Church Group has seen incidents of racism directed towards this community. This aligns with a 2021 survey by the New Zealand Human Rights Commission that shows incidents of racism towards Māori, Pacifica and Chinese have increased during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Stuff New Zealand, 26 September 2021 01.30 PM; The Conversation, 19 May 2021, 7.20 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: The Director General of Health, and the Race Relations Commissioner have condemned racist behaviour. The 'Give Nothing to Racism' campaign is also ongoing.

### Pacifica Food Security Issues Continue

Food supply for the Pacifica community continues to be an issue, however the level of need is gradually easing as coordination between agencies and groups takes place.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples, 27 September 2021 9.00 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: MPP, NEMA, and MSD are working to address food security and distribution issues. Otara Health, Fonua Ola, Taulanga U, Vaka Tautua, Pasifika Futures and South Seas Healthcare have delivered hundreds of food parcels. MPP have completed 158 food related follow ups with most church, groups and families receiving adequate food support and 5,500 food parcels delivered to 33,000 people have been distributed by Affirming Works and Siaola.

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

## Key Issues and Risks

### Employer Vaccine Mandates Receiving Push-back

Some employers are introducing COVID-19 vaccine mandates (in addition to those already in legislation for border workers). Mandates have been enacted in some public agencies, including the Defence Force, Department for Conservation, and in the health sector for those treating COVID-19 patients. A handful of private companies are publicly considering the introduction of vaccination requirements, such as Air New Zealand, the Sudima Hotels Group, and those recruiting RSE workers. Some legislated employee vaccination requirements have already been challenged, with legal cases brought against NZ Customs and the Port of Tauranga. Responses to these mandates may escalate and cause problems for the response.

NZ Herald: 22 September 2021 7.48 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Legal cases are ongoing. Outcomes may provide some guidance to employers going forward. PSC, Worksafe, and MBIE have advice available for employers.

### Increasing Mental Health Needs

Ongoing alert level and travel restrictions can have an impact on mental health especially for people with pre-existing vulnerabilities. Ministry of Health COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey showed that total population anxiety and depression levels increased to 15% in the first week of Alert level 4, which was approximately twice pre-pandemic levels and are now tracking downwards but remain elevated at around 12%. Overall, a suite of indicators of distress measured by the Health and Wellbeing Survey have been gradually trending down over the four weeks studied to date. After an initial increase in 1737 contacts, following the move to alert level 4, there has been a decrease back to prior levels. Increased attention to mental health concerns is expected in the coming days, in line with Mental Health Awareness Week.

Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021 2.56 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Ministry of Health is progressing work with the Mental Health Foundation including a wellbeing campaign for Auckland. The Mentemia app and the Wellbeing Sessions continue to be available to the public. The Suicide Prevention Office established a \$1.4 million Youth Mental Wellbeing Grants Fund, which was specifically targeted at grassroots, community level initiatives. The purpose of the fund is to help alleviate youth mental distress and ultimately lead to a reduction in suicide risk. The focus is on youth (12 – 24 years) and priority populations disproportionately impacted by the outbreak, including youth living in Auckland/Northland and Pacific youth. Funding has been distributed.

### COVID-19 Infections in Gangs Occurring

Some gang members have tested positive for COVID-19. They are a high-risk cohort for contracting and spreading COVID-19. Some gang members disregard official guidelines and advice, such as self-isolation and testing. Some gangs are also disproportionately made up of Māori and Pacifica peoples who are a vulnerable group for COVID-19 transmission, with lower vaccination rates. This could have an impact on the spread of community cases.

New Zealand Police, 24 September 2021, 10.00 AM; Stuff New Zealand, 22 September 2021.

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Government agencies, NGO's, and Police continue to engage with gang leadership to encourage vaccination and compliance within this community.

### COVID-19 Infringements Ongoing

There has been a steady number of pandemic related infringements in Auckland during the lockdown period, with an average of 80 infringements a day [see the 'Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings' chart later in the report]. This could have an impact on the number of community cases if people fail to follow guidelines, such as wearing a face covering or maintaining social distancing. Notably, some previously unlinked cases in the current outbreak have resulted from breaches of restrictions.

NZ Herald: 22 September. 10.29 AM; Stuff: 24 September. 5.00 AM; NZ Police: 22 September 6:19 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: The recent change from Alert Level 4 to 3 may reduce some of the impetus people had to breach COVID-19 restrictions, as well as the new category allowing people to move for personal reasons. Public messaging is re-emphasising the importance of compliance measures and prevention strategies.



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

## Health

### Community Cases

There are 1,185 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 8 new community cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 1.11 PM

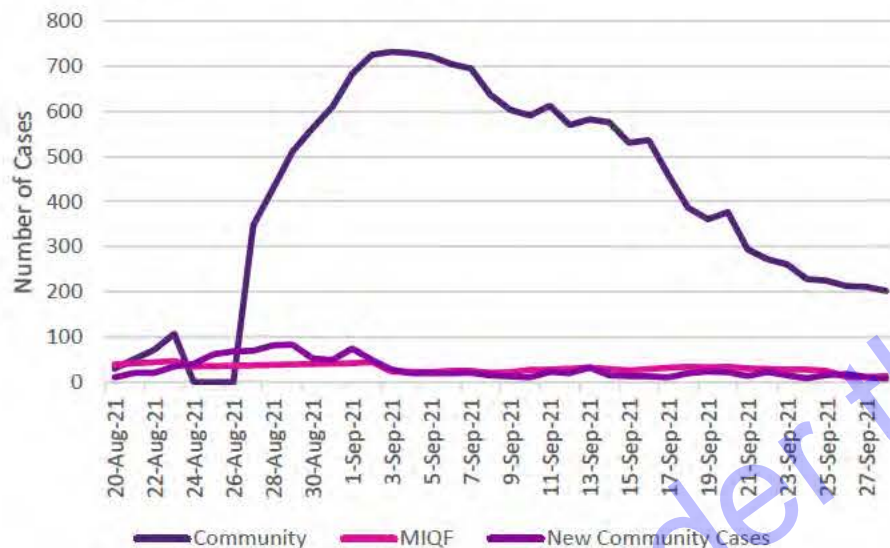
### Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

After peaking at 731 on 3 September, the number of active cases has reached its lowest level since August 26 (see the chart below). There were eight new cases detected in the community yesterday – the lowest daily total since the beginning of the outbreak.

There were 4 new cases identified in MIQF.

Ministry of Health 28 September 2021 1.11 PM

### Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



### Contact Tracing

There are 50 close plus contacts currently under management. 47 (94%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 39 (78%) have returned an initial test, none were positive. 666 close contacts are currently under management 627 (94%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 609 (91%) have been tested, none were positive.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 1.11 PM

### PPE

The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 11.16 AM

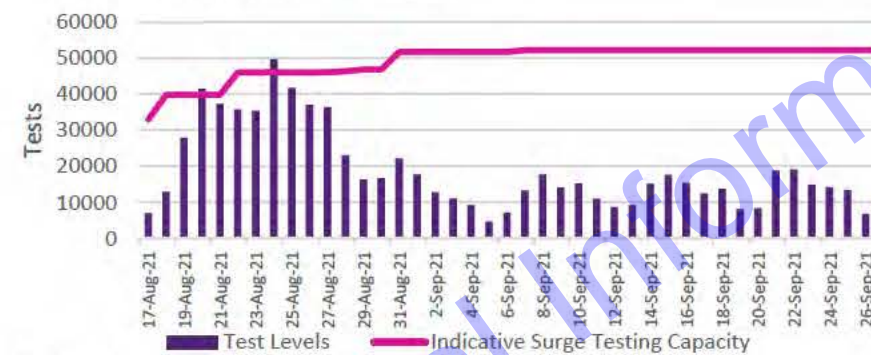
### Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing rates peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Since then, testing rates have varied between 6,906 and 19,124 (see the chart below).

Testing hesitancy may be one reason rates are low.

Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021 10.05 AM

### Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Whanganui where all ICU capacity is being utilised for non-COVID cases. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is less than 20 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just under 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021 1.11 PM

### Health System

There are 14 hospitalised cases.

3 cases are in ICU, and none require ventilation.

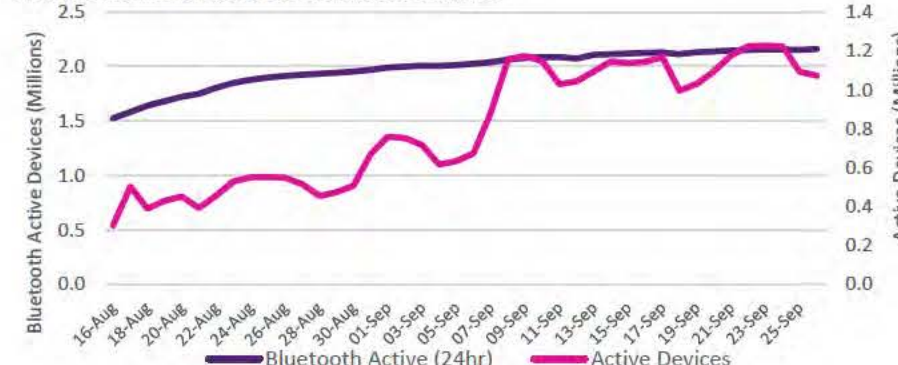
Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 1.11 PM.

### App Usage

In the 24 hours from 1 PM 26 September to 1 PM 27 September, there were 1.07 million active devices using the Tracer App, and 2.159 million devices with Bluetooth active.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 10.00 AM.

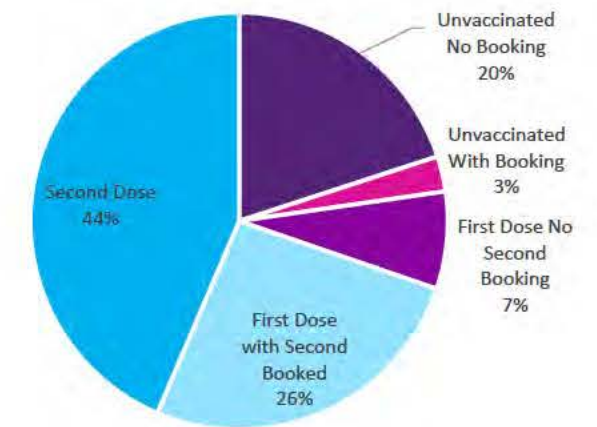
### Active Devices and Bluetooth Active Devices



### Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,252,807 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,834,404 people have been fully vaccinated. There are 1,216,002 future bookings. The chart below shows the total eligible population and whether they have been vaccinated or have a booking. Approximately 1.10 million of the future bookings are for second doses.

Ministry of Health : 28 September 2021 2.21 PM



### Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. However, Māori, and Pacific populations have a lower average age, which will contribute to the disparity.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 10.53 AM

Note: 'population' is the total eligible population





# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

## Social & Community

### Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

Calls to Healthline have now dropped to their lowest levels since the outbreak began. The proportion of calls related to COVID-19 has declined from 63-67% previously to 37-45% in recent days.

The primary themes present in calls to Healthline relate to travel restrictions, boundary measures, and exemptions, and returning to work during AL3. Healthline is also registering growing public frustration and anxiety around entering and leaving Auckland, the persistence of AL3 restrictions for longer than expected, and the differences in AL3 currently and previously. In an increasing number of instances, this translates into abuse directed towards Healthline staff.

Ministry of Health, 27 September 2021 1.11 PM

### Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media sentiment over the weekend highlighted conversation around masks, with some people questioning the need to wear a mask after being fully vaccinated, and others asking why the South Island should need to wear masks due to having no community cases. A few people were sharing examples of good mask compliance in their communities, with some discussing the challenges of children and mask-wearing (including for autistic children) and others expressing frustration at seeing people not wearing a mask, or wearing one incorrectly. Some misinformation was noted in relation to mask-wearing not being effective.

Most online conversation continues to focus on NZ's COVID response (44% negative and 45% neutral sentiment), the virus (47% negative and 44% neutral), the vaccine rollout (50% negative and 38% neutral), and enforcement (40% negative and 49% neutral). Most categories became more neutral overall, except for 'Team of 5 Million', which increased in positive sentiment by 5%.

DPMC, 27 September 2021 5.30 PM

### Transport – Vessel *Vanuatu Chief* Denied Pratique

The vessel *Vanuatu Chief*, was denied pratique on Friday after two crew signing off in a previous port returned a positive COVID-19 result. The ship was anchored off Auckland and remains at anchor under quarantine. Testing so far has returned negative results. Maritime NZ and Customs are working with stakeholders to develop plans to safely work the ship.

Ministry of Transport, 27 September 2021 2.52 PM

### Food Security and Distribution in Pacific Communities

Food security and distribution continues to be a concern for Pacific communities in the Auckland region. MPP report hundreds of food parcels are being distributed daily with one provider giving away more than 5,500.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 27 September 2021 8.59 AM

### Requests to Increase the Vaccination Rate for Pacific Youth

Concerns regarding low vaccination rates amongst Pacific youth, and further requests to increase their vaccination rates were raised recently at a Northern Region Zoom Fono attended by MPP, MSD, and Pacific Providers.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 28 September 2021 8.59 PM

### Food and Job Insecurity Ongoing

Approximately 3 percent of the population are receiving wage subsidies. Additionally, the findings from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey for the week 15–21 September 2021 include 5 percent of respondents saying they struggled to meet basic living costs, such as food or accommodation, in the past week, and 2 percent of respondents said that their household has relied on special food grants, food banks and food parcels.

Ministry of Health, 27 September 2021, 9.05 AM; Ministry of Social Development, 27 September 2021, 9.05 AM

### MIQ Capacity

There are currently 3,571 people in managed isolation, with 91% of rooms allocated as a proportion of operational capacity. Operational capacity includes some rooms not in use as they are undergoing cleaning or subject to cohorting. There are 222 people in quarantine facilities. 326 of 608 quarantine rooms are filled, which is 46% of capacity.

MBIE, 27 September 2021 11.50 PM

### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

The August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3 opened on 17 September and has received a total of 157,375 applications so far, an average of 14,307 per day.

This is 30% less than Wage Subsidy #2 (opening 3 September) which had received a total of 224,414 applications at the same point, and 48% less than Wage Subsidy #1 (opening 20 August) which had received 301,862.

As at 27 September, \$2.648 billion has been paid in recent wage subsidies to support 1.24 million jobs, including employees of 310,175 businesses and 165,835 self-employed people.

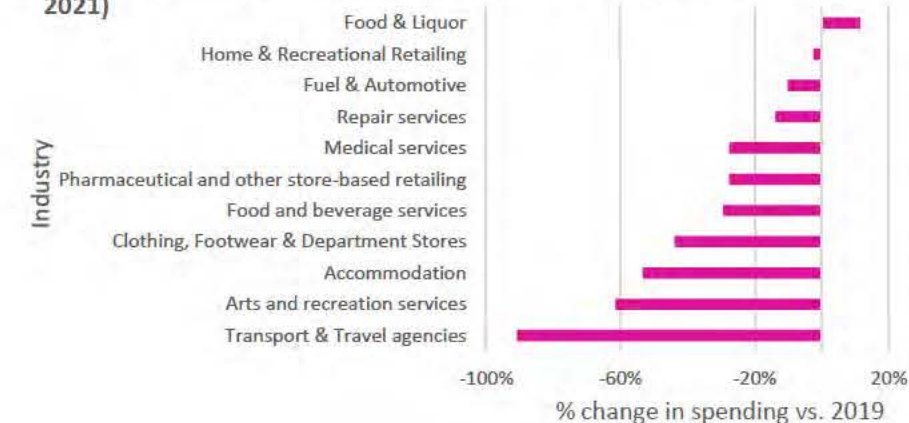
Ministry for Social Development, 28 September 2021 9.37 AM

### Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

As an indicator of spending, consumer spend (through Paymark EFTPOS) in the week ending 26 September was 11% less than the same week in 2019. In comparison, in the previous two weeks, spending was 16% less than the same week in 2019. Spending continues below 2019 levels in all major categories except Food & Liquor, which increased by 12% compared to the same week in 2019.

MBIE, 27 September 2021 11:00 AM

Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019 (as at 26 September 2021)



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

## Social & Community

Section 6(c)  
[Redacted text]

Section 6(c)  
[Redacted text]

Section 6(c)  
[Redacted text]

Section 6(c)  
[Redacted text]

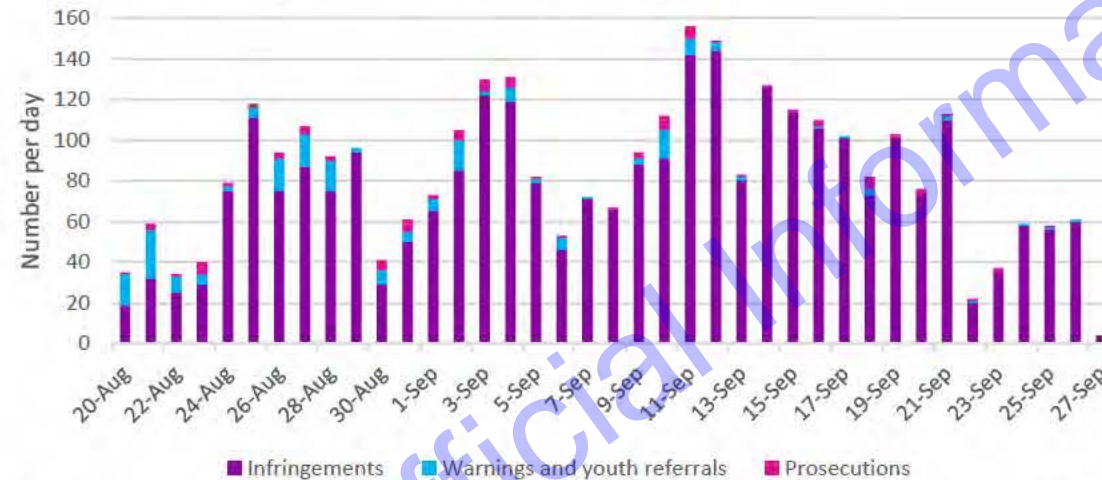
### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements has reduced since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3. Recent increases in infringements were recorded over the weekend of 25-26 September, in line with trends in previous weeks regarding weekend activity.

New Zealand Police: 28 September 2021 6.24 AM. Information as of 27 September 5.00 PM

Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

### Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

### Boundary Exemptions

In the past week, the Ministry of Health has received an average of 690 daily requests for exemptions to cross the AL4/AL3 boundary. These requests have increased following the transition to AL3, from a prior daily average of 338. Average approvals have also risen from 3% in the week leading up to the alert level change to 25-32% over the past three days.

This reflects changes in approaches to those crossing the boundary for funerals and tangi, relocations, and returning to home or school. MOH receives advice on some requests from MBIE and MPI.

Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021 8.10 AM

### Daily Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MoH



### Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 1.4% of vehicles were turned back on September 27. This is lower than the average of 1.7% of vehicles turned around at the border so far in this outbreak.

New Zealand Police, 28 September 12.35 PM

### Court Hearing for Non-Vaccinated Staff

Legal processes are continuing for the four employees that were due to be dismissed on 27 September, from Aviation Security as they failed to be vaccinated as required by the Vaccination Order. A determination from the hearing is expected this week.

Ministry of Transport, 27 September 2021 2.52 PM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand</a>
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		<a href="mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz">COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz</a>



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

1 October 2021

## Health

### Community Cases

There are 1,268 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 19 new community cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.

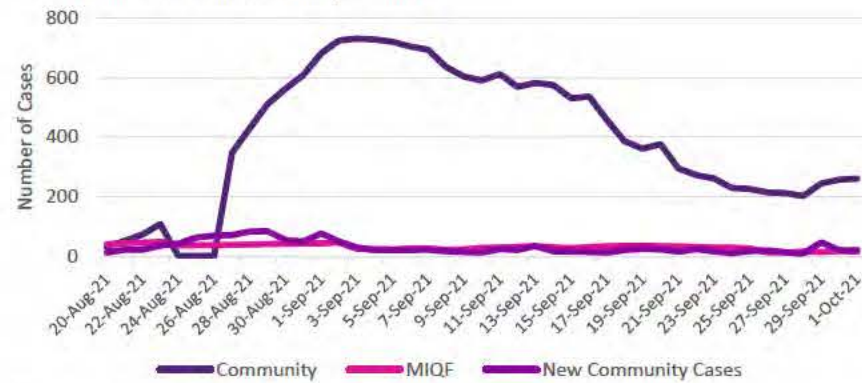
Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

### Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

After peaking at 731 on 3 September, the number of active cases has declined to 260 currently. There were 19 new cases detected in the community yesterday, with the rolling 7-day average at 20 cases per day.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



### Contact Tracing

There are 78 close plus contacts currently under management. 74 (94%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 66 (84%) have returned an initial test, and one was positive. 494 close contacts are currently under management 404 (81%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 377 (76%) have been tested, none were positive.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

### PPE

The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 2.49 PM

### Critical Medical Supplies

There are two weeks of critical medical supplies at medium pandemic usage rates. Because of this, endotracheal tube supply is being monitored and blood tube supply is on manual allocation. Helium and Nitrous Oxide continues to be constrained after damage to an Australian plant. The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates.

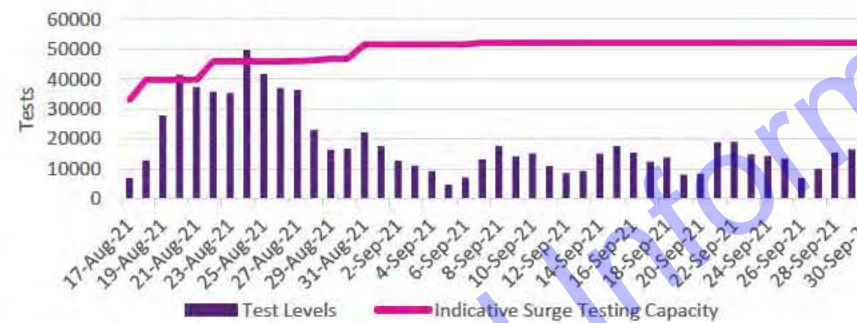
Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 2.49 PM

### Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing rates peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Testing has been on an upward trajectory over the past five days, rising from 6,906 to 19,038.

Ministry of Health, 1 October 2021 9.58 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at most DHBs, except the West Coast and Lakes DHB where all ICU capacity is being utilised for non-COVID cases. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is more than 20 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just under 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

### Health System

There are 23 hospitalised cases. 5 cases are in ICU, and none require ventilation.

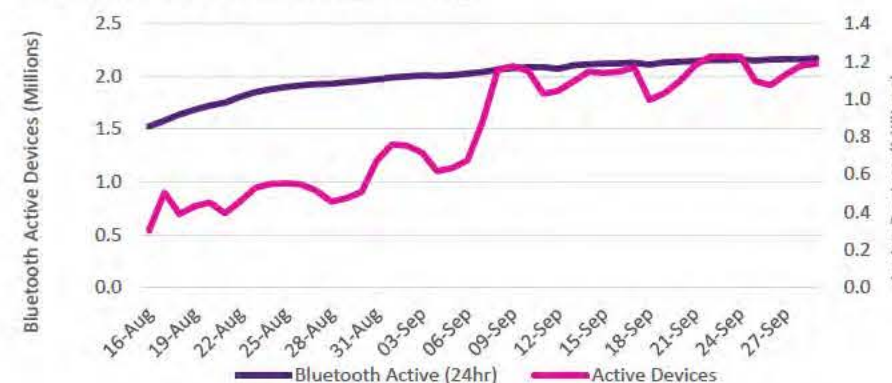
Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

### App Usage

In the 24 hours from 1 PM 29 September to 1 PM 30 September, there were 1.19 million active devices using the Tracer App, and 2.171 million devices with Bluetooth active.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 10.00 AM.

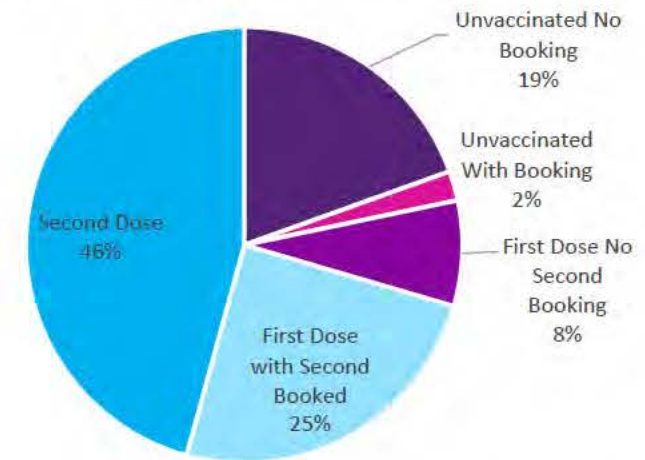
Active Devices and Bluetooth Active Devices



### Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,295,644 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,925,370 people have been fully vaccinated. There are 1,136,201 future bookings. The chart below shows the total eligible population and whether they have been vaccinated or have a booking. Approximately 1.04 million of the future bookings are for second doses. Approximately 19% of the eligible population are not vaccinated and do not have a booking.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 10.43 AM and 2.12 PM



### Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. However, Māori, and Pacific populations have a lower average age, which will contribute to the disparity.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 10.43 AM



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

1 October 2021

## Social & Community

### Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

There were 3,723 calls to Healthline yesterday with 2,261 to the dedicated COVID-19 info line. 16% were sent for testing and 88% were seeking information.

Healthline staff are continuing to encounter abuse and frustration from the public which is impacting the workforce. The line has seen an increase in callers seeking information on COVID-19 and vaccines in recent days. There is a sense that peoples commitment to compliance is wavering. There has also been an increase in people reporting their desire to have rules around how far they can travel for exercise relaxed. There are also concerns that boundary restrictions may continue into level 2.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.36 PM

### Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media channels shows a 25% increase in volume in the mental health category, in particular how mental health challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic (noting it is topical, being mental health week). Volume of conversation over the past 4 days increased by 19%, with the COVID response seeing the biggest growth in volume (up 36%).

All categories of social conversation had more negative sentiment.

DPMC: 30 September 2021 5.17 PM

### Transport – Vessel *Vanuatu Chief* Denied Pratique

The vessel *Vanuatu Chief*, was denied pratique on Friday after two crew signing off in a previous port returned a positive COVID-19 result.

Testing indicates active cases on board although they continue to report as being asymptomatic. Crew are next expected to be tested on day 12 (1 October). If these tests are negative, then crew will likely remain in quarantine until after 14 days since last port of call.

An all-of-government response meeting was held on 29 September and a plan to work the vessel while under quarantine is being developed.

New Zealand Customs: 30 September 2021 1.11 PM

### Food Security in Pacifica Communities

Food supply for the Pacifica community continues to be an issue, however the level of need is gradually easing as coordination between agencies and groups takes place.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 29 September 2021 5.03 PM

### MIQ Capacity

There are currently 3,558 people in managed isolation, with 91% of rooms allocated as a proportion of operational capacity. Operational capacity includes some rooms not in use as they are undergoing cleaning or subject to cohorting. There are 215 people in quarantine facilities. 233 of 461 quarantine rooms are filled, which is 51% of capacity.

MBIE: 1 October 2021 10.00 AM

### Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

The August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3 opened on 17 September and has received a total of 190,963 applications so far, an average of 13,640 per day.

This is 28% less than Wage Subsidy #2 (opened on 3 September), which had received a total of 264,284 applications at the same point, and 44% less than Wage Subsidy #1 (opening 20 August) which had received 339,392.

As at 30 September, \$2,726 billion has been paid in recent wage subsidies to support 1.25 million jobs, including employees of 313,013 businesses and 167,856 self-employed people.

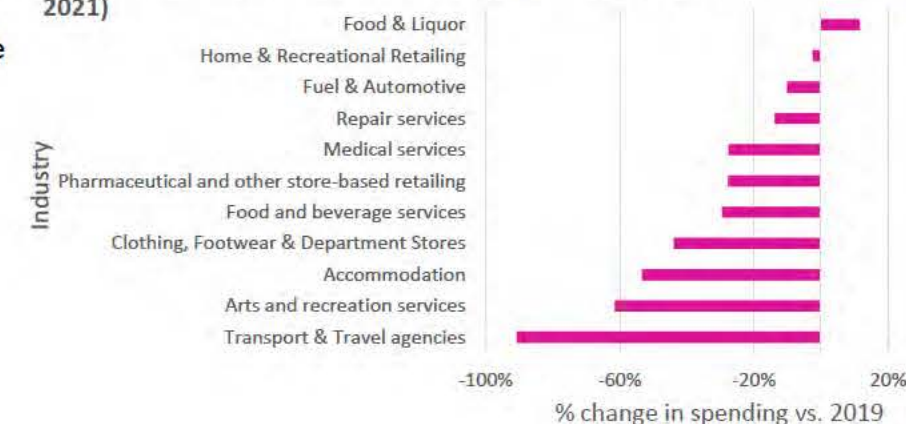
Ministry for Social Development: 1 October 2021 10.15 AM

### Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

As an indicator of spending, consumer spend (through Paymark EFTPOS) in the week ending 26 September was 11% less than the same week in 2019. In comparison, in the previous two weeks, spending was 16% less than the same week in 2019. Spending continues below 2019 levels in all major categories except Food & Liquor, which increased by 12% compared to the same week in 2019.

MBIE: 27 September 2021 11:00 AM

Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019 (as at 26 September 2021)



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

1 October 2021

## Social & Community

### Section 6(c)

[Redacted content]

### Section 6(c)

[Redacted content]

### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements has reduced significantly since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3, with the last week recording the lowest number since the outbreak began. Recent increases in infringements were recorded over the weekend of 25-26 September, in line with trends in previous weeks regarding weekend activity.

New Zealand Police: 1 October 2021 6.24 AM. Information as of 30 September 5.00 PM  
Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

### Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

### Boundary Exemptions

In the past week, the Ministry of Health has received an average of 497 daily requests for exemptions to cross the AL4/AL3 boundary. After increasing from 338-690 following the transition to AL3, these have begun to fall in recent days. On September 29, an amendment was enacted to permit cross-boundary travel without an exemption for the purposes of relocation, to return home (from AL3 to AL2), and to provide shared care. Average approvals have risen from 3% in the week leading up to the alert level change to 26% over the past week, reflecting changes in the boundary settings.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 8.10 AM

### Daily Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MoH



### Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 0.8% of vehicles were turned back on September 30. This is lower than the overall average of 1.59% of vehicles turned around at the border during the course of this outbreak. Exemptions for personal travel now apply, which may result in fewer breaches.

New Zealand Police, 1 October 2.28PM

### Court Case Dismissed for Non-Vaccinated Former Border Worker

A former border worker who was previously sacked for not getting vaccinated has had her legal challenge dismissed by the high Court. She had refused the vaccine following it being made mandatory and was dismissed on May 31. Her Employment Relations Authority Case is still pending.

Stuff: 27 September 2021 8.05 PM

### Concerns Over Delayed Surgeries

Some concerns have been raised over delayed elective surgeries. Elective surgeries have been postponed during alert levels 4 and 3.

Stuff: 1 October 2021, 5.00 AM

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

1 October 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand</a>

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 October 2021

## Key System Issues & Risks

### Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Despite the relatively small number of COVID-19 cases requiring hospitalisation, there is a possibility if there are more community cases that demand will outweigh health capacity. Several regions during the current outbreak had all ICU beds in use for non-COVID-19 cases, and some critical medical supplies are in short supply. Medical capacity will take time to develop, and may be outpaced by cases.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 2.49 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: There is a full rapid review of COVID-19 medical devices and consumables within domestic supply underway with a view to centralisation under urgency.

### MIQ Capacity Limited

79% of available isolation capacity is being utilised (rooms that are available fluctuate daily depending on a number of things *including* cohorting arrangements, flight schedules and rooms being repurposed for community cases). 33% of quarantine rooms in Auckland are being utilized (266 people in 139 rooms). There remain a small number of quarantine rooms available in Christchurch and Wellington maintained for usual MIQ border operations (43 and 10 rooms respectively). There are no MIQ quarantine rooms currently in the Waikato/BOP region. Work is being done to understand what could be achieved if MIQ quarantine is needed in those locations noting original concerns raised by Iwi with having quarantine in these areas.

There is growing public frustration with the capacity constraints on MIQ, both domestically and internationally. Last week, almost 23,000 people signed a petition urging the government to create a fairer managed isolation system. Recent reports suggest that the waiting list for MIQ currently exceeds 30,000. Although Government is conscious of bottlenecks and recently opened a further 3,700 MIQ rooms, the fact that approximated 25,000 overseas New Zealanders competed for these spots indicates that demand significantly outweighs supply. Some people are calling for a more tailored approach, which prioritises those returning to the country for certain reasons – e.g. to give birth or for bereavement.

MBIE, 6 October 2021 11.30 AM and 01 October 11.52 AM; RNZ, 5 October 2021 6.32 PM; Guardian, 21 September 2021 12.55 AM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Work is underway to identify future MIQ options. If there are more community cases the system would need to flex again, noting that there are MIQ facilities in only some locations. Work is being done to understand what could be achieved if quarantine is needed in those locations noting original concerns raised by Iwi with having quarantine in these areas.

### Vaccination Hesitancy – Vaccination Bookings Declining

The number of new bookings for vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are currently 1,009,471 future bookings, of which the vast majority (934,230) are for second doses. This implies the emerging risk of 'hard' vaccine hesitancy among the remaining population, with 19% of the eligible population yet to be either vaccinated or to have booked a vaccine.

Recent findings from Horizon Research reveals that the average anti-vaccine citizen is more likely to be younger, poorer, less educated, unemployed, rural, and Pakeha than the nationwide average. The primary concerns raised by anti-vaccine citizens include worries about unknown side effects, uncertainty about long-term side effects, and the idea that current vaccines will not be effective against new variants. Given the evidence to counter these claims, the breadth of global vaccine application, and the orientation of current vaccine bookings, these attitudes may be less flexible than may have been previously thought.

Vaccination levels among Māori and Pacific communities are 58% and 74% respectively for the first dose, compared to 80% across the total population. However, this may be less a signal of vaccine hesitancy than demographic distribution, with the average ages of Māori (25) and Pacifica (24) well below Pakeha (41).

Questions of accessibility are also being raised, particularly in relation to Māori, low-income, and elderly groups.

Ministry of Health, 4 October 2021 10.43 AM, 6 October 8.20 AM; NZ Herald, 3 September 2021 5.00 AM; Newsroom, 1 October 2021

•Next steps or mitigations if known: There is ongoing work to encourage COVID-19 vaccination uptake, and this is increasingly linked to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

### Phased Approach to Reopening Receiving Mixed Response

There appears to have been a mixed response to the planned approach to reopening announced on Monday. Some people in vulnerable communities report being concerned about the changes as vaccine rates remain low in some communities and the new rules could create a high-risk situation for them. Calls to Healthline reflected unclear communications and people wanting clarification of what they could do under the new approach. Several epidemiologists also report being unhappy about the phased approach, seeking more evidence that the health system could cope with a rise in COVID-19 cases or making remarks that there needed to be a higher level of vaccination prior to loosening restrictions. Internationally, some media outlets have framed the decision as New Zealand 'giving up' on the elimination strategy.

Stuff: 5 October 12.55 PM; NZ Herald: 5 October 10.19 AM RNZ: 5 October 12:11 PM Ministry of Health: 5 October 2.16 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications are ongoing to clarify the new approach with the public.



# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 October 2021

## Key System Issues & Risks

### Anti-Vaccine Sentiment and Anti-Compliance Activism Occurring

Protests against COVID-19 public health measures and vaccines continues, with some 1,000 people recently gathering in Auckland for this purpose. This is underpinned by a growing weariness regarding the length and nature of restrictions as well as the differing compliance requirements across inter-regional boundaries. Police have also noted a small rise in protests at vaccination centers.

New Zealand Police, 5 October 2021, 1.15 AM, 6 October 7.14AM; Ministry of Health, 4 October 2021 10.43 AM; Newsroom, 1 October 2021

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Police continue to engage with communities and applying de-escalation measures at protests.

### Pacifica Food Security Issues Reducing

Agency coordination regarding food supply has begun to alleviate the immediate issue of food security for the Pacifica community. However, the larger systemic issues regarding the overall need for food support remain. These issues include delays and bottlenecks related to the various levels of the multi-agency response; accessibility issues for smaller providers; and overall equity issues that Pacifica peoples face (such as lower income, higher levels of digital exclusion, etc).

DPMC, 5 October 2021 11.00 AM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: MPP, NEMA, and MSD are working to address food security and distribution issues.

### Increasing Mental Health Needs

Ongoing alert level and travel restrictions are having an impact on mental health, particularly for those with pre-existing vulnerabilities. Many of the indicators of distress measured by the Ministry of Health COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey have been worsening over the last five weeks. There continue to be themes in the media around increased mental health needs as a result of the COVID-19 response such as mental health needs in MIQ and the strain on business owners.

Ministry of Health, 5 October 2021 2.16 PM NZ Herald, 1 October 2021 6.38 AM Stuff, 4 October 2021, 5.25 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Ministry of Health is progressing work with the Mental Health Foundation including a wellbeing campaign for Auckland. The Mentemia app and the Wellbeing Sessions continue to be available to the public. The Suicide Prevention Office established a \$1.4 million Youth Mental Wellbeing Grants Fund, which was specifically targeted at grassroots, community level initiatives. The purpose of the fund is to help alleviate youth mental distress and ultimately lead to a reduction in suicide risk. The focus is on youth (12 – 24 years) and priority populations disproportionately impacted by the outbreak, including youth living in Auckland/Northland and Pacific youth. Funding has been distributed.

### Business Frustration

Some businesses are indicating that they are frustrated with the persistence of COVID-19 restrictions, particularly in the South Island. Hospitality New Zealand notes that many of its members are struggling to break even under Level 2, with limits on gatherings set at 100. While the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce acknowledges that the extension of AL2 was not unexpected, it is exerting strains on constituents. The emerging risks, in light of the lack of cases identified in the South Island in the present outbreak, include eroding understanding of the rationale for ongoing restrictions, a reduced sense of national solidarity in tackling COVID-19, and an increasing focus on the economic impact of public health measures.

Stuff, 4 October 2021 7.15 PM; DPMC: 3 October 2021 5.17 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: The changes to the hospitality restrictions, and introduction of the phased approach to alert levels may to go some way towards relieving frustration.

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 October 2021

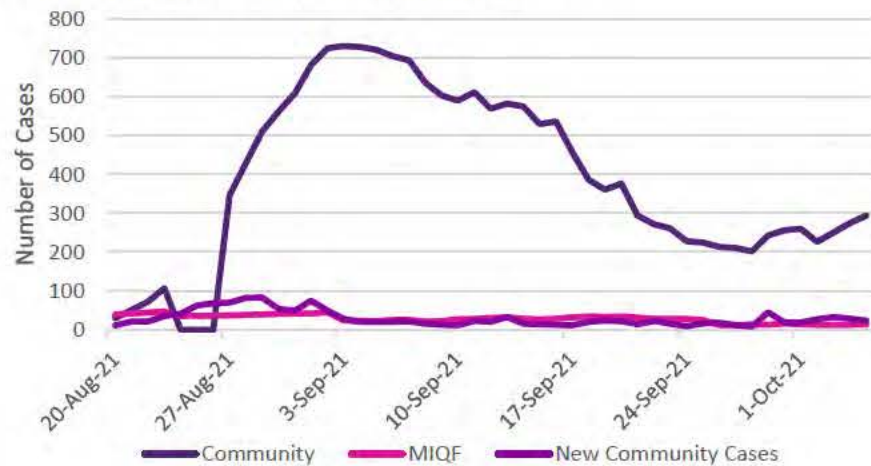
## Health

### Active COVID-19 Cases Increasing

After peaking at 731 cases on 3 September, the number of active cases recently declined to 202 on 28 September, before increasing to 294 (as of 5 October). There were 24 new cases detected in the community as of 9 AM Monday, with the rolling 7-day average at 28 cases per day. By contrast, the average daily caseload in the previous week (22-28 September) was 14.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 2.46 PM

### Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



### Health System

There are 32 hospitalised cases. 7 cases are in ICU, and 1 requires ventilation. These are all in Auckland region.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 2.46 PM

### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is less than 20 ICU beds and just over 60 ventilators. Waikato DHB has less than 15 ICU beds and approximately 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 2.16 PM

### PPE

The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 6 October 2021 11.59 PM

### Critical Medical Supplies

There are 2 weeks of critical medical supplies at medium pandemic usage rates.

There is a full rapid review of C-19 medical devices and consumables within domestic supply underway with a view to centralisation under urgency.

Ministry of Health: 6 October 2021 1.00 PM

### Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing levels peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Since then, daily testing levels have varied between 6,906 and 22,041.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 10.00 AM

### Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



### Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

There were 5,416 calls to Healthline on Monday (an increase of 803 from Sunday) with 3,912 to the dedicated COVID-19 info line. 19% were sent for testing and 76% were seeking information.

Healthline staff received a number of calls expressing frustration and confusion around the changes announced on Monday for the staged reopening. Staff were unable to answer these as they had not been briefed. Themes included confusion about the rules around visitors using a household toilet, the size of the household bubble, boating and the ability to drink alcohol in public.

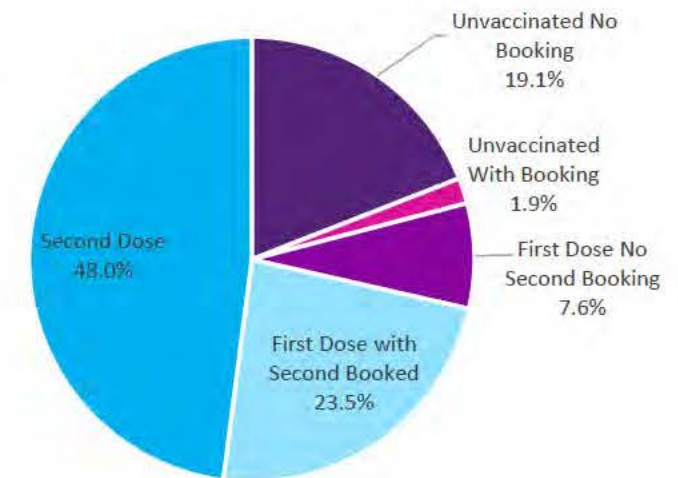
Calls also continued to be received about a perceived lack of policing of restrictions. The line has seen an increase in callers seeking information about the recent cases in the Waikato around testing and the boundary. Mental health calls were primarily related to anxiety about the alert level and travel restrictions.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 2.16 PM

### Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,361,425 first doses of vaccine administered and 2,105,686 people have now been fully vaccinated. There are 1,009,471 future bookings. This is approximately 81% of the eligible population that have had a vaccination or made a booking to be vaccinated. Approximately 19% of the eligible population have not received at least a first dose and do not have a booking. 934,230 future bookings are for second doses, with only 75,241 first bookings registered.

Ministry of Health: 6 October 2021 10.48 AM



### Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. However, Māori, and Pacific populations have a lower average age, which will contribute to the disparity.

Ministry of Health: 6 October 2021 10.48 AM





# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 October 2021

## Social & Community

### Public Sentiment

While the overall volume of COVID-19 conversation remains stable, there have been significant increases in attention to the public health restrictions over the past four days, including the timeframe (31%) and enforcement (24%). A 5% rise in negative sentiment in the Team of Five Million category implies a perceived loss of shared experience, likely as a result of the differential distribution of cases and restrictions across the country. Following mental health awareness week, mental health remains a focal point of negative sentiment (53% of recorded activity) along with domestic violence (56%) and the vaccine rollout (52%).

DPMC: 3 October 2021 5:17 PM

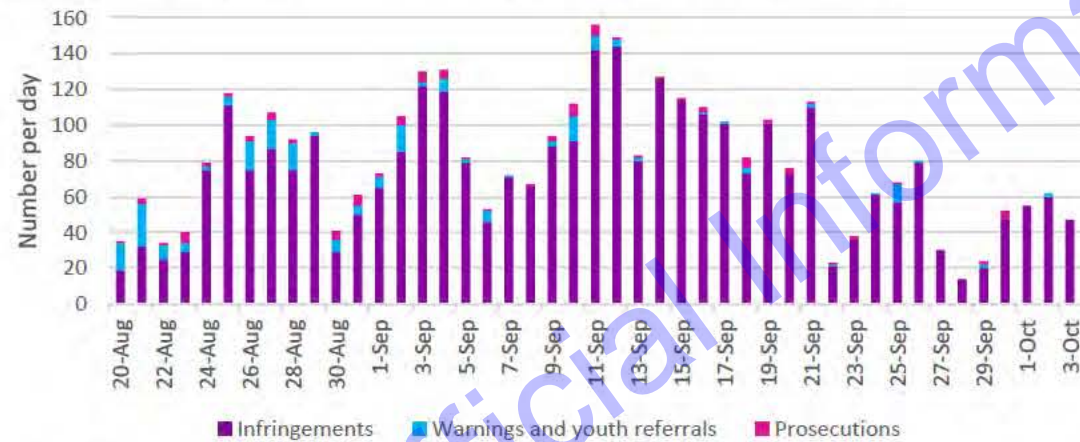
### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements has reduced significantly since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3, with the last week recording the lowest number since the outbreak began. Recent increases in infringements were recorded over the weekend of 2-3 October, in line with trends in previous weeks regarding weekend activity.

New Zealand Police: 5 October 2021 1:15 AM. Information as of 4 October 5:00 PM

Note: As of 23:59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

### Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders of the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Section 6(c)

[Redacted content]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 October 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand</a>
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		<a href="mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz">COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz</a>

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

12 October 2021

## Key System Issues & Risks

### Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Active cases have reached 452, the highest level since 17 September, and with the R value at 1.2, numbers are expected to continue to rise.

Current ICU capacity is already constrained in some regions for non-COVID-19 reasons. There is no available ICU capacity in Hawkes Bay and Whanganui. There is less than 5 ICU beds available in Capital and Coast, the Bay of Plenty, the Hutt Valley, the West Coast, Lakes, Midcentral, and South Canterbury regions. There is a risk should a major COVID-19 outbreak occur in any of these regions given the ICU bed availability. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use, and ventilators are available in all regions.

Ministry of Health: 11 October 2021 2.17 PM, 11 October 2021 3.12 PM,

- Next steps or mitigations if known: There is a full rapid review of COVID-19 medical devices and consumables within domestic supply underway with a view to centralisation under urgency.

### COVID-19 Cases Entering Hospital Emergency Wards

Some people who have COVID-19 have been arriving at hospital emergency rooms. This increases the risk of passing COVID-19 to others in the hospital. These individuals appear not to have a General Practitioner, and are likely to be using emergency or transitional housing and social services, increasing the risk of transmission of the virus.

Ministry of Health: 11 October 2021 2.17 PM, 11 October 2021 3.12 PM; Stuff NZ, 1 October 2021, 5.00 AM; RNZ 8 October 2021, 2.09pm.

- Next steps or mitigations if known: There is messaging asking people to call ahead before arriving at medical facilities if they suspect they have COVID-19, and to sanitise and use a mask.

### MIQ Capacity Limited

There are limited spaces in quarantine, with Jet Park currently full and the 110 rooms at the Distinction Hamilton expected to be full by Wednesday.

80% of available quarantine capacity in Auckland is utilised. There are 107 MIQ quarantine rooms available in the Waikato region. There remain a small number of quarantine rooms available in Christchurch and Wellington maintained for usual MIQ border operations (9 and 42 rooms respectively). The overall MIQ system is 97% utilised (rooms that are available fluctuate daily depending on a number of things including cohorting arrangements, flight schedules and rooms being repurposed for community cases). Cohorting is done on public health advice to reduce the risk of late in stay in-MIF transmission events. It means that a facility will only take people from different flights within a 4 day window. Once that window closes, no other people will be put in that facility. This means that some rooms cannot be used because the facility is "closed". Cohorting cycles are approximately 20 days in duration.

MBIE, 6 October 2021 3.35 PM, 7 October 12.04 PM, 12 October 1.55 PM (data as at 9.30am on 12 October); Ombudsman, 17 August 2021

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Options are being explored as to approaches once quarantine capacity is reached. One option is to implement caring in the community for those who have COVID-19. In response to rising complaints about MIQ the Office of the Ombudsman has commenced an investigation that focuses on how MBIE has addressed, or proposes to address future planning and allocation of spaces in the MIQ system.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Hesitancy – Vaccination Bookings Declining

The number of new bookings for COVID-19 vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are currently 773,169 future bookings, of which the vast majority (716,335) are for second doses. This implies the emerging risk of 'hard' vaccine hesitancy amongst the remaining population, with 16% of the eligible population yet to be either vaccinated or to have booked a vaccine. 84% of the eligible population have had a COVID-19 vaccine or are booked to receive it. If all current bookings are fulfilled 75% of the population will be fully vaccinated, 9% will have had one dose and 16% will remain unvaccinated.

Vaccination levels amongst Māori and Pasifika communities are 61% and 77% respectively for the first dose, compared to 82% across the total population. However, this may be less a signal of vaccine hesitancy than demographic distribution, with the average ages of Māori (25) and Pasifika (24) well below Pakeha (41).

Recent reports have pointed to these disparities in vaccination rates between ethnic groups. In Marlborough, for example, 95% of the population of Blenheim have had their first dose, compared to 62% of the local Māori population, although it should be noted that vaccination rates amongst Māori have been increasing in recent days. It is thought that causes for this disparity in Marlborough include mistrust of the health sector as well accessibility issues including difficulty getting to vaccination centers.

Ministry of Health, 10 October 2021, 10.41 AM, 1.00 PM; RNZ 11 October 2021, 12.48 PM; Stuff 11 October 2021, 12.54 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Some Health Trusts have taken steps to increase accessibility to the COVID-19 vaccine. For example, Ngati Hine Health Trust has been organising mobile campervans where people can receive the vaccine. A nationwide push for COVID-19 vaccination, 'Super Saturday', is planned for Saturday 16 October. Several organisations and businesses are promoting this.

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

12 October 2021

## Key System Issues & Risks

Section 6(c)

[REDACTED]

### Increasing Mental Health Needs

Ongoing alert level and travel restrictions continue to have an impact on mental health. Calls to Healthline remain at elevated levels with callers seeking to understand alert level and boundary rules as well as having a general level of weariness and uncertainty which is translating into a large proportion of abusive calls.

Ministry of Health, 10 October 2021 1.39 PM; New Zealand Police, 8 October 2021 1.55 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Ministry of Health is progressing work with the Mental Health Foundation including a wellbeing campaign for Auckland. The Mentemia app and the Wellbeing Sessions continue to be available to the public. The Suicide Prevention Office established a \$1.4 million Youth Mental Wellbeing Grants Fund, which was specifically targeted at grassroots, community level initiatives. The purpose of the fund is to help alleviate youth mental distress and ultimately lead to a reduction in suicide risk. The focus is on youth (12 – 24 years) and priority populations disproportionately impacted by the outbreak, including youth living in Auckland/Northland and Pasifika youth. Funding has been distributed.

### People Are Concerned About the Move Away from a COVID-19 Elimination Strategy

There have been reports that many New Zealanders are concerned about the move away from a COVID-19 elimination strategy. There is particular concern amongst vulnerable communities, given their relatively lower vaccination levels. One Samoan community representative and Auckland councillor reported members of his community feeling that a higher prevalence of comorbidities will put them at greater risk in any outbreak. This is counter balanced by a feeling of lockdown weariness amongst other communities in Auckland.

Abc News, 11 October 2021, 10.29 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications regarding the strategy are ongoing.

### Lack of Understanding of COVID-19 Rule Changes

Some people are confused regarding the COVID-19 rules and restrictions, particularly as alert levels change, and Auckland goes through its three-step reopening strategy. Some experts including academics in the field have also reported concern that the rule changes associated with the phased reopening of Auckland region are unclear and could exacerbate the recent outbreaks. Another example comes from the hospitality sector with industry associations reporting events being cancelled after confusion around the new limits on attendee numbers of social distancing rules at indoor events. Recent calls to the Ministry of Health's Healthline number also suggest confusion around recent rule changes with many callers seeking clarification on the new Auckland alert level rules and the wider Waikato alert level rules.

Ministry of Health, 10 October 2021, 1.33 PM; Newshub, 11 October 2021, 10.53 AM; Stuff, 11 October 2021, 10.54 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications regarding the alert level requirements is ongoing.

### COVID-19 Amongst the Prison Population

Three prisoners who entered Mt Eden prison in October have tested positive for COVID-19, with one of the cases in hospital and the other two in prison in quarantine. Two of the three prisoners were found to have COVID-19 prior to entering the prison and the third is an associate of a positive case. This comes after another prisoner who had been bailed was found to have been carrying COVID-19 when he was brought back into custody; the prisoner in question, who was gang affiliated, has now recovered.

Stuff, 12 October 2021 1.41 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Corrections are implementing process to reduce transmission, such as placing the individuals in quarantine within the prison.

# COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

12 October 2021

## Health

### Active COVID-19 Cases Increasing

After peaking at 731 cases on 3 September, the number of active cases recently declined to 202 on 28 September, before increasing to 476 (as of 12 October).

The rolling 7-day average is 41 cases per day compared to 28 per day on average in the previous week (29 September – 05 October).

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 2.02 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



### Health System

There has been an average of 29 hospitalised cases a day based on the last week, 6 cases in ICU, and 1 on ventilation. All those currently in ICU are in the Auckland area, with 1 ICU case each in Waikato Base and Palmerston North. There has been one COVID-19 related death in hospital in the past week, a person with underlying health conditions.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 2.02 PM

### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Whanganui and Hawkes Bay where all ICU beds are taken by non-COVID-19 patients. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is approximately less than 25 ICU beds and 55 ventilators. Approximately half of the nations ICU beds are in Auckland. Waikato DHB has less than 15 ICU beds and just over 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 2.02 PM

### PPE

The current PPE usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 11 October 2021 3.12 PM

### Critical Medical Supplies

There is a full rapid review of COVID-19 medical devices and consumables within domestic supply underway with a view to centralisation under urgency.

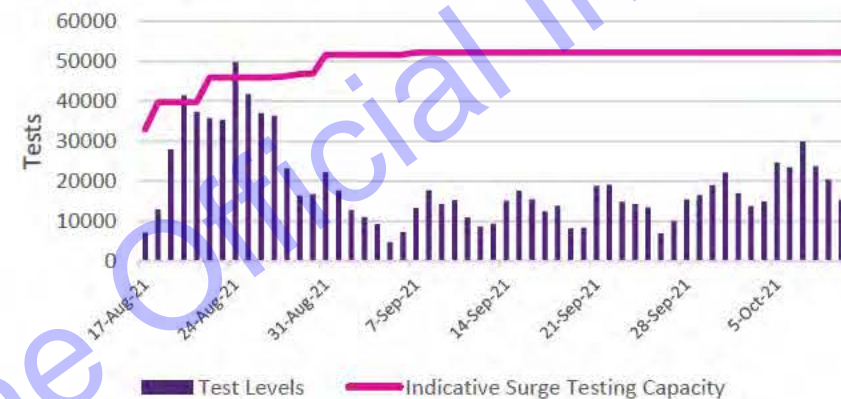
Ministry of Health: 11 October 2021 3.12 PM

### Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing levels peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Testing levels have since increased, particularly over the past week after recent outbreaks, reaching 29,925 on 8 October 2021.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 10.10 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



### Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

On average there were 4,579 calls to Healthline each day in the last week. 16% were sent for testing and 77% were seeking information. There is unmet demand due to the call volumes.

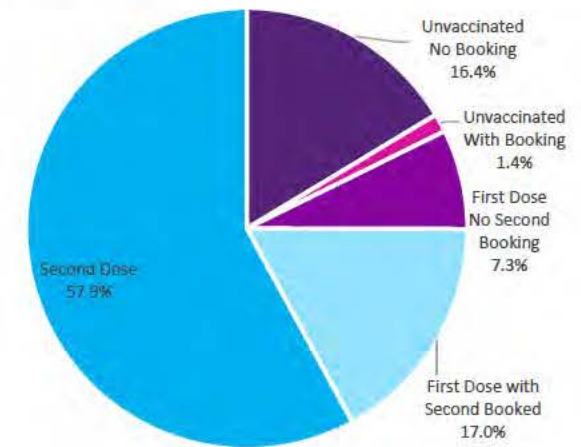
Calls yesterday spiked after the 4PM announcement continuing the Auckland alert level. This resulted in a large proportion of abusive calls to frontline staff and also one of the highest volumes of calls to Mental Health and addiction services since lockdown commenced. There was also an increase in requests from people wanting information on crossing the alert level boundaries after the extensions in Waikato and Northland.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 2.02 PM

### Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,463,004 first doses of vaccine administered and 2,439,100 people have now been fully vaccinated. There are 773,169 future bookings. This is approximately 84% of the eligible population that have had a vaccination or made a booking to be vaccinated. Approximately 16% of the eligible population have not received at least a first dose and do not have a booking.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 11.48 AM



### Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. The proportion of those vaccinated with at least the first dose rose by 4% amongst Māori and Pasifika over the last 7 days. The least vaccinated demographic are Māori under 30.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 10.41 AM







## COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

12 October 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand</a>

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)

# COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

19 October 2021

## Key System Issues & Risks

### COVID-19 Cases Increasing

Active COVID-19 cases are expected to increase in the coming days with the R value approximately 1.34 (as of 15 October). There are currently 633 active COVID-19 cases, just 18 less than the peak observed on 3 September 2021.

Ministry of Health: 18 October 2021, 12.01 PM, stuff 7 October 2021, Our World in Data: 19 October 2021

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Alert level restrictions are in place to help mitigate community spread.

### Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Whilst ICU capacity can currently meet demand, ICU availability is limited in most regions and is likely to be an issue should a major outbreak occur. There is ICU capacity at all DHB's except for Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and South Canterbury where all ICU beds are taken by non-COVID-19 patients. The majority of ventilator capacity remains available nationwide. Current PPE usage remains at low pandemic usage, however, there have been increased orders from the primary care sector. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use. There are supply challenges for particular items.

Ministry of Health: 18 October 2021, 12.01 PM, stuff 7 October 2021, Our World in Data: 19 October 2021

- Next steps or mitigations if known: The Ministry of Health has reported that they are able to expand ICU capacity during outbreaks and have trained 713 non-ICU medical staff to help with a pandemic response (as of 7 October 2021). Orders for supplies such as further needles and pulse oximeters have been secured under urgency.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Bookings Declining

The number of new bookings for COVID-19 vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are currently 487,123 future bookings, of which the vast majority (457,203) are for second doses. This fall in bookings in of itself does not imply vaccine hesitancy as bookings are expected to decline as people get vaccinated. Additionally, some people will opt for a "walk-in" vaccination without a booking, whilst others will have booked directly with vaccination sites and not through the central booking system.

The number of eligible people who are yet to be vaccinated or book is 596,315.

The combined number of people either getting vaccinated or booking to get vaccinated remained steady over the last couple of weeks. This may have been affected by the Vaxathon.

86% of the eligible population have had a COVID-19 vaccine or are booked to receive it. If all current bookings are fulfilled 78% of the population will be fully vaccinated, 8% will have had one dose and 16% will remain unvaccinated.

Vaccination levels amongst Māori and Pasifika communities are 67% and 81% respectively for the first dose, compared to 86% across the total population. However, this may be less a signal of vaccine hesitancy than demographic distribution, with the average ages of Māori (25) and Pasifika (24) well below Pakeha (41). It should also be noted that ethnicity data for those who receive "walk-in" vaccinations may not be collected.

Ministry of Health, RNZ 17 October 2021, 12.35PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications are ongoing to increase vaccination rates. Recent events such as the Super Saturday Vaxathon have helped to increase vaccination rates. There have been calls for further events including smaller less centralised events focusing on particular communities.

### MIQ Capacity Limited

MBIE are currently operating three quarantine facilities in Auckland. There were 210 quarantine rooms available out of 554 (38%) but with the trajectory of cases in Auckland (87 today) these will likely soon be full. MBIE intend to add approximately 100 additional rooms at one of these facilities tomorrow (mostly single rooms). There remain a small number of quarantine rooms available in Christchurch and Wellington maintained for usual MIQ border operations (13 and 42 rooms respectively). There are 93 MIQ quarantine rooms available of the 110 in the Waikato region.

The current surge in community cases, and their close contacts, and availability of quarantine rooms continues to be a challenge. The numbers of people required to go to MIQ continues to rise meaning the remaining rooms in Auckland are quickly running out. It has been observed that attendees are remaining longer than usual in MIQ with positive cases joining existing bubbles. MBIE also report a lack of visibility around planning across the rest of the country from entities other than MIQ for quarantine should there be outbreaks outside of Auckland. There has been an increase in complexities in managing 'higher needs' people within MIQ. This includes managing mental health, people with drug and alcohol addictions, people with gang affiliations and exhibiting violent and aggressive behaviour. This is placing strain on facilities and staff.

MBIE, 15 October 2021 2.38 PM and 19 October 2021 2.55 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Enhanced security measures have been implemented to mitigate risk from 'higher needs' people in MIQ. This will require a wider level of support from government agencies. Options are being explored as to approaches once quarantine capacity is reached, this includes possibly moving returnees early from a facility to release quarantine spaces in facilities.

## Key System Issues & Risks

### Section 6(c)

#### Staff Shortages

Some organisations have been unable to train staff during the high alert levels, and are now experiencing labour shortages. This has been raised by the Transport industry, with trainee bus drivers in Auckland unable to sit Class 2 licence tests due to the COVID-19 restrictions. This is compounded by a significant driver shortage and it is anticipated that normal services will not be able to resume when alert levels are lowered. In August, 1,754 bus services in Auckland were cancelled due to this issue and similar issues emerged in Wellington in June. Reduced services due to driver shortages are likely to create further issues such as overloading remaining capacity, imposing extended delays, preventing workers (including critical roles) from getting to work, increasing traffic congestion and raising general societal stress levels and frustrations.

Ministry of Transport, 15 October 2021, 1.51 PM; Stuff, 11 August 2021 1.31 PM; Stuff, June 01 2021, 8.30 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: The issue has been raised with the General Manager of Regulatory Services and Director of Land Transport to work through any potential mitigations. The Ministry of Transport is seeking clarification from Waka Kotahi about the scope of the issue and will then determine the next steps.

#### Increasing Mental Health Needs

Call volumes to Healthline have increased to a consistent level of up to 4,500 calls per day with non-COVID-19 calls (primarily mental health and addiction) an increasingly unmet demand. Common themes in recent calls to Healthline were frustration and anger at isolation and ongoing lockdowns; reports of breaches due to protest activity in Auckland Domain; as well as people concerned about being exposed to the virus as a result of being at the Domain; confusion on what the current alert rules mean; alarm and distress at Air New Zealand cancelling flights into and out of Auckland; and vaccinations.

Ministry of Health, 17 October 2021 1.33 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Work is being taken on medium term strategies for additional capacity to support teams answering the calls. Mental health services and support continue to be available through other mechanisms.

#### Lack of Understanding of COVID-19 Rule Changes

Some members of the public are expressing confusion about operating at, or transitioning to, a particular alert level, particularly regarding mixed travel requirements, and the staged reopening.

NZ Police, 15 October 2021, 12.57 PM; Ministry of Health, 17 October 2021, 1.33 PM; Stuff, 8 October 2021, 11.25 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications regarding the alert level requirements is ongoing.

#### Alert Level Boundary Breaches

The media is reporting that it is easy to bypass alert level boundary checkpoints (with people hiding in car boots for example). Some individuals associated with these breaches, who have tested positive for COVID-19 have not been cooperative with authorities in disclosing the locations they have visited which has made tracing newer outbreaks more difficult. Additionally, the complexity of travel exemptions make enforcement difficult to apply consistently and has the potential to erode public confidence.

NZ Police, 15 October 2021, 12.57 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Police have indicated the importance of continued messaging that enhances public understanding about the role of Police as well as the critical public role in supporting compliance initiatives.

#### Concerns About the Move Away from a COVID-19 Elimination Strategy

The recent lowering of alert levels has raised concerns about Māori and Pasifika being left more susceptible to the virus due to lower vaccination rates and reduced health outcomes overall. These concerns have been voiced by both the respective communities and some health experts. This raises tensions between those with concerns about reducing restrictions and those wanting them reduced (often due to the social and economic pressures created by them).

The Guardian, 4, 12 October 2021, 5.03 and 6.12 AM.

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications regarding the strategy are ongoing.

# COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

19 October 2021

## Health

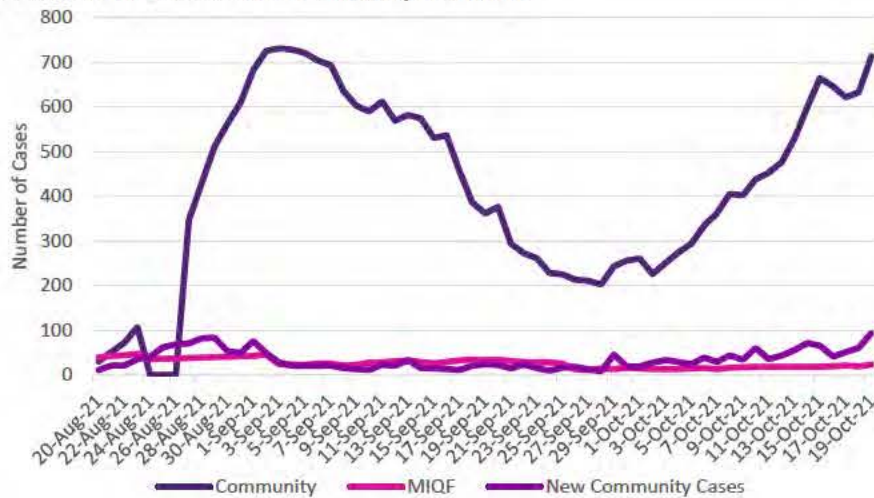
### Active COVID-19 Cases Increasing

The number of active COVID-19 community cases has increased to 713.

The rolling 7-day average is 62 cases per day compared to 41 per day on average in the previous week (6 October – 12 October).

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



### August Community Cluster

56% of the August Community Cluster cases have been unvaccinated, with a further 20% ineligible for vaccination as they are under 12 years of age. 81% of those hospitalised were either unvaccinated or ineligible, and 17% had received just one dose of the vaccine.

Ministry of Health, 19 October 2021, 3.55 PM

### Health System

There has been an average of 38 hospitalised cases a day based on the last week, 5 cases in ICU, and 1 on ventilation. All those currently in ICU are in the Auckland area.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and South Canterbury where all ICU beds are taken by non-COVID-19 patients. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is approximately less than 20 ICU beds and 55 ventilators. Waikato DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just over 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

### PPE

The current PPE usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

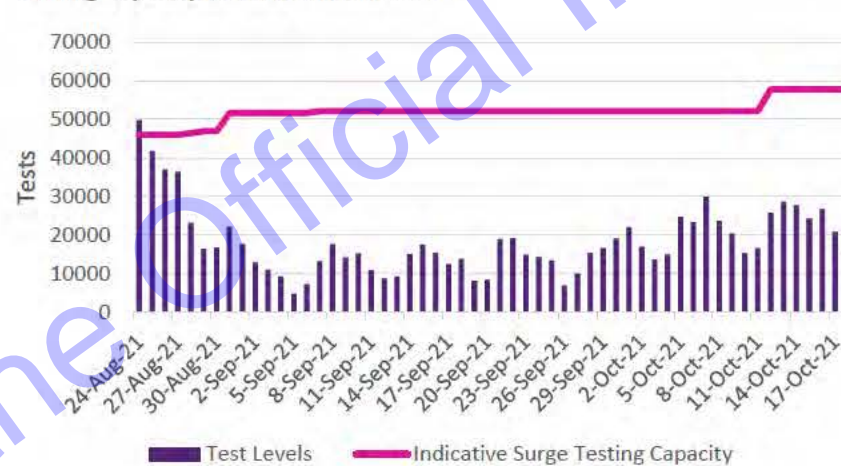
Ministry of Health: 18 October 2021 12.01 PM

### Testing Levels Rising

After testing levels peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Testing levels were at 16,921 for 18 October with a rising 7 day rolling average of 24,413 compared to 22,014 for the previous week.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



### Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

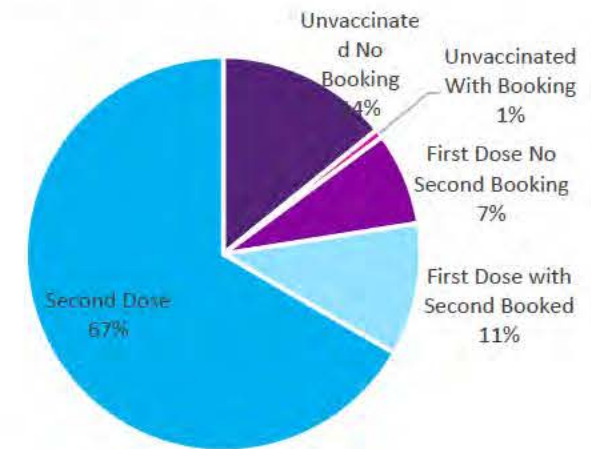
On average there were 4,352 calls to Healthline each day in the last week. 16% were sent for testing and 78% were seeking information. There is unmet demand due to the call volumes with mental health and addiction continuing to climb and the associated clinical risk as a result. Calls reflect a growing view and resentment from the public that "I have done my bit as I am double vaccinated why can't I...". There is also increasing anger about the impact of lockdown on Auckland for the upcoming long (labour) weekend.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

### Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,582,822 first doses of vaccine administered and 2,805,048 people have now been fully vaccinated. There are 487,123 future bookings. This is approximately 84% of the eligible population that have had a vaccination or made a booking to be vaccinated. Approximately 16% of the eligible population have not received at least a first dose and do not have a booking.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM



### Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. Young Māori continue to be the least vaccinated demographic.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM





# COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

19 October 2021

## Social & Community

### Public Sentiment

Analysis of the online public conversation regarding responses to the alert level review were diverse, with themes including those who want more freedoms and others who want to move back to level 4 in Auckland given the increased case numbers. It was also noted that some people are feeling judged by others living outside of Auckland. Others are finding it difficult to grapple with the logic behind the current alert level.

Over the 4 days to 13 October, the volume of conversations around the vaccine rollout increased by 6%, and discussion regarding how long the current alert level restrictions will last increased by 13%, compared to the 4 days prior. The volume of conversation around all other related topics fell over this period. Overall, sentiment around COVID-19 related issues remained stable over the past 4 days

DPMC: 14 October 2021 7.00 PM

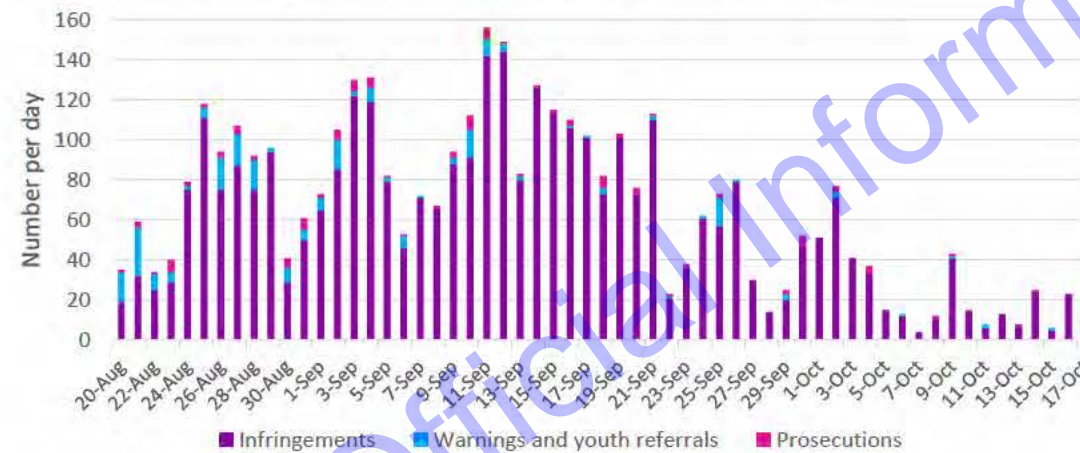
### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements continue to drop since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3, with the last week recording the lowest number since the outbreak began. Infringements over the 7 days to 17 October 2021 totaled 88, compared to 129 in the 7 days prior. Prosecutions, and warnings and youth referrals also remained low at 2 and 3 respectively.

New Zealand Police: 18 October 2021, 6:29 AM

Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

### Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Section 6(c)

Section 6(c)

Section 6(c)

## COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

19 October 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand</a>
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		<a href="mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz">COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz</a>

# COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

26 October 2021

## Key System Issues & Risks

### COVID-19 Cases Increasing

Active COVID-19 cases are expected to increase in the coming days with the R value approximately 1.49 (as of 22 October). There are currently 1,209 active COVID-19 cases, far higher than the previous peak in early September and the highest since the beginning of the outbreak (with the exception of yesterday).

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM; Our World in Data, 26 October 2021

- **Next steps or mitigations if known:** Alert level restrictions are in place to help mitigate community spread, and the COVID-19 Protection Framework will facilitate the application of public health measures alongside the vaccination rollout.

### Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Whilst ICU capacity can currently meet demand, ICU availability is limited in most regions and is likely to be an issue should a major outbreak occur. Although there is currently ICU capacity at all DHBs, Wairarapa, Hutt Valley, Hawkes Bay, Queenstown Lakes District Councils, and South Canterbury face severe constraints with almost all ICU beds taken by non-COVID-19 patients. By contrast, the majority of ventilator capacity remains available nationwide. Current PPE usage remains at low pandemic usage, however, there have been increased orders from the primary care sector. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use. There are supply challenges for particular items.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021, 2.02 PM, stuff 7 October 2021

- **Next steps or mitigations if known:** The Ministry of Health has reported that they are able to expand ICU capacity during outbreaks and have trained 713 non-ICU medical staff to help with a pandemic response (as of 7 October 2021). Orders for supplies such as further needles and pulse oximeters have been secured under urgency.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Bookings

The number of new bookings for COVID-19 vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are currently 361,270 future bookings, of which the vast majority (341,260) are for second doses. This fall in bookings in of itself does not imply vaccine hesitancy as bookings are expected to decline as people get vaccinated. Additionally, some people will opt for a “walk-in” vaccination without a booking, whilst others will have booked directly with vaccination sites and not through the central booking system.

The number of eligible people who are yet to be vaccinated or book is 542,178.

The combined number of people either getting their first vaccination or booking to get vaccinated slowed over the last week compared to the previous week. The recent outbreak in Waikato also led to an increase in vaccine bookings in that area.

87% of the eligible population have had a COVID-19 vaccine or are booked to receive it. If all current bookings are fulfilled 79% of the population will be fully vaccinated, 8% will have had one dose and 13% will remain unvaccinated.

Vaccination levels amongst Māori and Pasifika communities are 67% and 83% respectively for the first dose, compared to 87% across the total population. However, this may be less a signal of vaccine hesitancy than demographic distribution, with the average ages of Māori (25) and Pasifika (24) well below Pakeha (41). It should also be noted that ethnicity data for those who receive “walk-in” vaccinations may not be collected.

Ministry of Health, 26 October 2021 10.24 AM, RNZ, 26 October 2021, 8.40 AM

- **Next steps or mitigations if known:** Communications are ongoing to increase vaccination rates. Recent events such as the Super Saturday Vaxathon have helped to increase vaccination rates.

### MIQ Capacity Limited

MBIE are currently operating three quarantine facilities in Auckland. As of 8:00AM on 26 October, there were 287 quarantine rooms available out of 674 (42.6%). With the continued implementation of community self-isolation MBIE’s quarantine occupancy has plateaued, despite rising case numbers. Additionally, the Naumi in Auckland is now being used for Community Close Contacts, where home self-isolation is not possible. There are currently 27 rooms available for this group (67% occupancy).

There remains a small number of quarantine rooms available in Christchurch and Wellington maintained for usual MIQ border operations (13 and 43 rooms respectively). There are 64 MIQ quarantine rooms out of the 110 available at Amohia in the Waikato region.”

MBIE, 26 October 2021 1.24 PM, Newshub 28 October 2021, 12.40 PM

- **Next steps or mitigations if known:** Options are being explored as to approaches once quarantine capacity is reached, this includes possibly moving returnees early from a facility to release quarantine spaces in facilities. In a recent interview, the COVID-19 minister noted that rules around MIQ for people entering New Zealand may also be relaxed in the coming months.

## COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

26 October 2021

### Key System Issues & Risks

#### Anti-Vaccine Sentiment and Anti-Compliance Activism Evolving

There have been several recent protests and petitions. A demonstration was held outside the Wellington High Court on Thursday 21 October in support of the hearing challenging the legality of vaccine mandates for frontline workers. The group of around 60 protestors gathered on the footpath outside the High Court. The group contained members of Voices for Freedom and the Outdoors Party. A number of other protests against lockdowns and vaccine mandates have also been reported in recent weeks in different locations.

Section 6(c)

#### Increasing Mental Health Needs

The Ministry of Health's Mental Health and Addiction phone line is at full capacity resulting in unanswered calls. Should unanswered calls continue to climb there is an increasing clinical risk. The phone line has been at full capacity for around three weeks now.

Ministry of Health, 26 October 2021 2.02 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Healthline are awaiting further advice from the Ministry as to how to mitigate the problem.

#### Concerns Arising From Government's new COVID-19 Framework

There has been some concern raised by the organization representing the retail industry, Retail NZ, that there is no date announced for the move to the government's new COVID Protection Framework. They raised that this may make it difficult for businesses to plan and stay afloat. Restaurants Association NZ have also mentioned that there is concern amongst the hospitality sector on vaccine passports and that 30% of its members oppose a vaccine certificate system because they are concerned over how they can monitor customers entering the premises. Counterbalancing the desire from sectors of the business community to limit measures, there were concerns that new framework may leave some communities vulnerable to outbreaks. There was some concern that the vaccination threshold used to determine the easing of restrictions was based on population vaccine coverage and does not include a requirement for coverage amongst Māori and Pasifika communities.

Interest, 22 October 2021, 1.26 PM, Newshub 22 October 2021 2.00 PM, Stuff 22 October 2.00 PM, DPMC 25 October 2021 10.14 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications are ongoing to explain the new framework and its relation to the 90% vaccination level, with the main overall focus on encouraging New Zealanders to get vaccinated.

#### Secondary School Students Return to School – Issues facilitating Reopening

The New Zealand Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA) have expressed some concerns around school returns in the midst of higher COVID-19 case numbers particularly in Auckland, and because vaccination levels amongst 12 – 19-year-olds remain low compared to the rest of the population. It was also noted at one school in Auckland which has a particularly high Māori and Pasifika population that things appear inconsistent as others in their community are being asked to limit travel and stay at home whilst the children are going to school. Some Auckland schools will continue online learning for senior students despite upcoming NCEA exams. One school principal announced that it would not be practical to open on 26 October and that the announcement contained some ambiguous messages. There has also been an increase in calls to Healthline relating to schools reopening.

RNZ, 20 October 2021, 7.55 PM, Stuff 21 October 2021 16.09 PM, Ministry of Health, 22 October 2021 1.57 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Children, young people and staff at higher risk should stay at home unless vaccinated, face coverings are mandatory for staff and learners in years 9 to 13 as well as on school transport and records are kept for the purposes of contact tracing.



# COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

26 October 2021

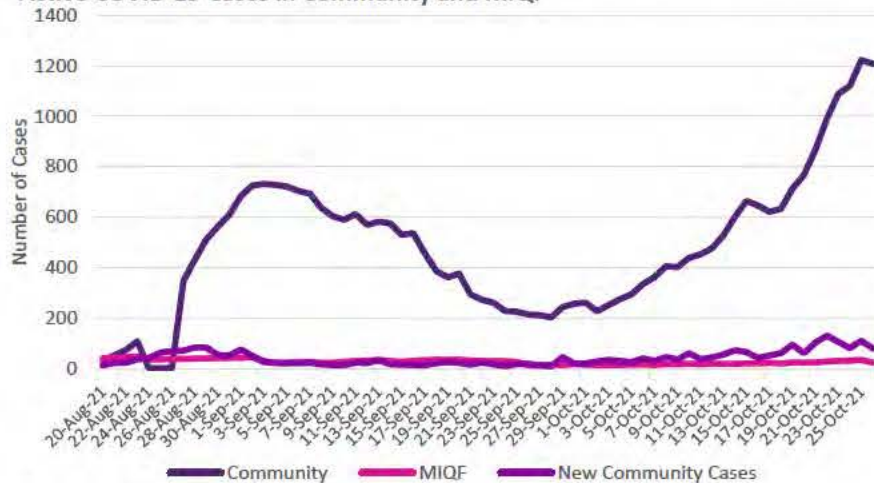
## Health

### Active COVID-19 Cases Increasing

The number of active COVID-19 community cases has increased to 1,209 on 26 October 2021, with a peak of 1,223 on 25 October 2021. The rolling 7-day average is 94 cases per day compared to 62 per day on average in the previous week (13 October – 19 October). The peak 7-day case fatality rate during this outbreak has been 0.92% compared an overall maximum during the pandemic of 9.10% recorded in February.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM, Our World in Data 26 October 2021

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



### August Community Cluster

54% of the August Community Cluster cases were unvaccinated, with a further 20% ineligible for vaccination as they are under 12 years of age. 79% of those hospitalised were either unvaccinated or ineligible, and 19% had received just one dose of the vaccine. Only 1% of those hospitalised were fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to the case being reported

Ministry of Health, 26 October 2021, 2.25 PM

### Health System

There has been an average of 45 hospitalised cases a day based on the last week (up from 33 the week before), 5 cases in ICU (the same as the previous week), and 2 on ventilation (the same as the previous week). All those currently in ICU are in the Auckland area.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM

### ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs (no data available for Northland). Available capacity at Auckland DHB is approximately 20 ICU beds and 60 ventilators.

Waikato DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just over 20 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM

### PPE

The current PPE usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates, and 33 weeks at medium pandemic response usage rates.

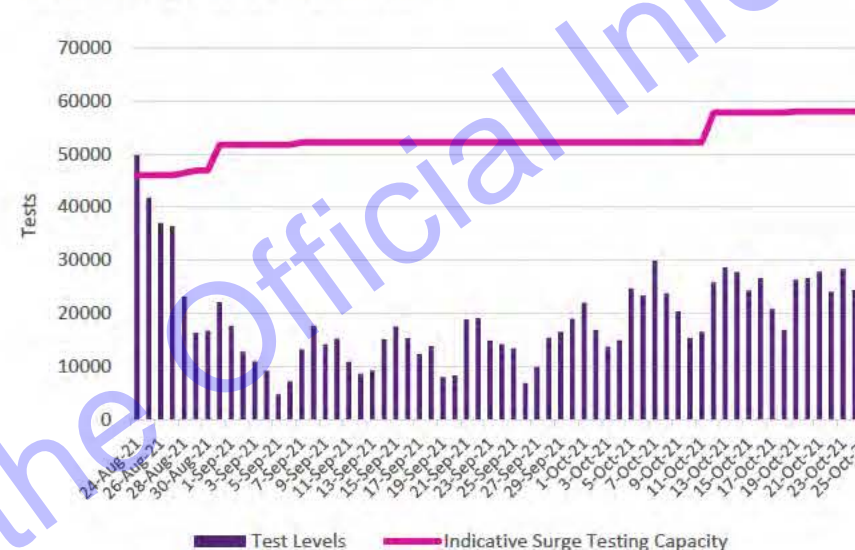
Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.24 PM

### Testing Levels Rising

After testing levels peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Testing levels were at 14,430 for 25 October with a 7-day rolling average of 24,579 compared to 24,413 for the previous week.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 10.11 PM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



### Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

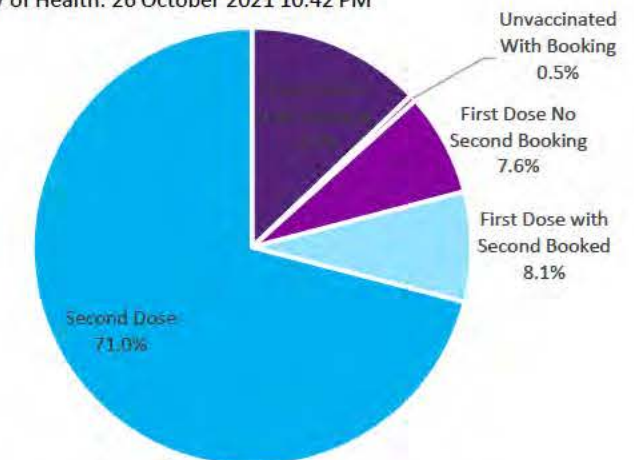
On average there were 4,159 calls to Healthline each day in the last week, up from 4,214 over the previous week. On average 16% were sent for testing, 24% were sent for testing on Sunday with a general increase in the numbers of people reporting cold/flu like symptoms. There has also been an increase in calls from Police to confirm testing for people arrested/in custody. There has also been an increase in calls from people who have tested positive, or are living with positive cases, regarding MIQ. Business owners have been making calls seeking advice after being identifies as exposure events. Abuse towards Healthline staff also rose over the weekend, indicating growing public frustration. Mental health and addiction contacts rose over the weekend with a number of contacts going unanswered.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM

### Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,646,869 first doses of vaccine administered and 2,987,389 people have now been fully vaccinated. There are 361,270 future bookings, with 20,010 for first dose and 341,260 for second. This means approximately 87% of the eligible population have had a vaccination or made a booking to be vaccinated. Approximately 13% of the eligible population have not received a first dose and do not have a booking. However, it should be noted that booking data does not account for those who receive walk-in vaccines.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 10.42 PM



### Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. Young Māori continue to be the least vaccinated demographic.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 10.42 PM





# COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

26 October 2021

## Social & Community

### Public Sentiment

Analysis of the online public conversation during October 16-20 revealed a shift in emphasis away from the vaccine rollout, the impact of restrictions on businesses and consumers, and the virus itself, toward the COVID-19 response and the timeframe of public health restrictions. These two topics registered the largest increases in attention, up by 6% and 33% respectively. By contrast, online conversation dealing with the vaccine rollout fell by 20%, while focus on the virus reduced by 5%.

This reflects widespread public anticipation of the COVID-19 Protection Framework, launched on Friday. The overall volume of conversation increased by 2% throughout this period compared with previously, and there was a general tilt toward negative and neutral sentiment.

DPMC: 21 October 2021 6.40 PM

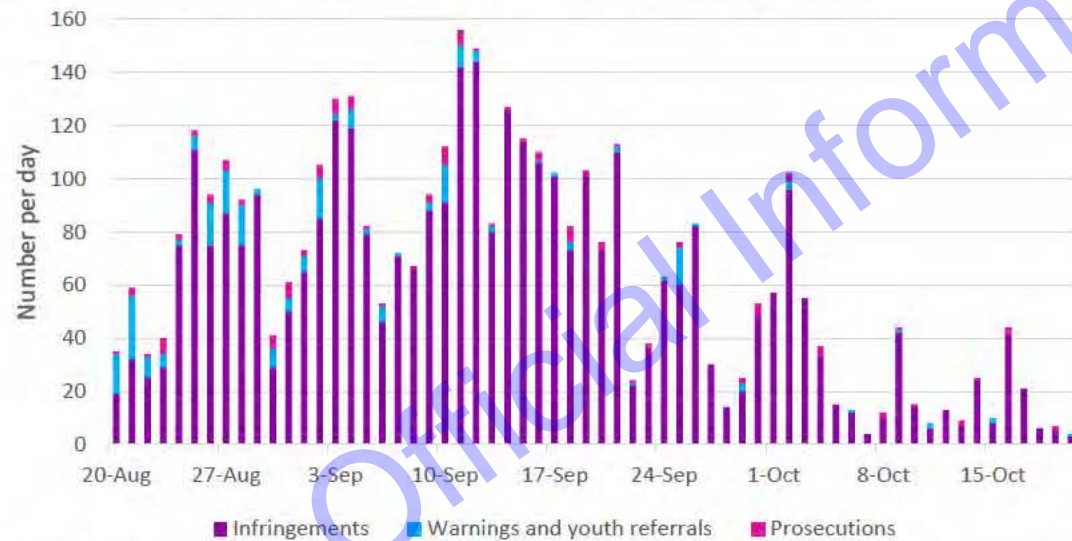
### Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements continues to drop since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3, with last week seeing the lowest number infringements since the outbreak began. Infringements over the 7 days to 22 October 2021 totaled 92, compared to 116 in the 7 days prior. Prosecutions, and warnings and youth referrals also remained low at 5 and 3 respectively.

New Zealand Police: 22 October 2021, 6:58 AM

Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

### Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Section 6(c)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

### Petitions against Vaccinations Garner Support

A petition against mandatory vaccinations in New Zealand has been posted on change.org, and had garnered 62,402 signatures as of 21 October. A similar petition submitted to Parliament, requesting that the House of Representatives pass legislation to ban any vaccine passport system in New Zealand, had received 55,675 signatures by the same date.

NZ Police: 21 October 3.25 PM

## COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

26 October 2021

## Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	<a href="mailto:electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz">electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz</a> s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	<a href="mailto:AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz">AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz</a> 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	<a href="https://www.police.govt.nz/covid-19-compliance">COVID-19 compliance   Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</a>
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	<a href="https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html">https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html</a>
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	<a href="https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment">https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment</a>
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand</a>

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)